TOPICS OF TO-DAY.

Here is a curious characteristic ancedote of Prof. Jewett, the translator of Plato. At a dinner he said to a young man who was one of the guests: "What was the saddest event in history?" The young man, much aback, stammered out, "Robert Elsmere." 'No," said the distinguished Grecian, tegarding him compassionately, "It was the death of Falstaff." Here is a curious characteristic ancedote

The Anglo-Jewish millionaire, Lord Rothschild, appeared in a Jewish synagogue on the Day of Atonement, and there read the Haptharah, from the 57th and 58th the Haptharah, from the 57th and 58th chapters of Isaiah, to a congregation of impoverished Russian Jews. His lordship put the proper emphasis upon those passages which contains the command to provide bread for the hungry, covering for the naked, and a home for the friendless.

A newly-designed compound launch steam engine has a single piston rod serving for two overlying cylinders, one of high and one of low pressure. The connecting done of low pressure. The connecting ds that actuate the two propeller shafts e connected with the crosshead, that, in ro, being connected with the piston rod tween the cylinders. The engine is so ranged as to be applied to but one propelrishaft in case of any disability of the her. It also has a reversing gear of very cole principle.

A French manuscript of Robespierre's s found its way to the National Library rather peculiar circumstances. A under rather peculiar circumstances. A workman, in packing up a parcel of old paper, noticed some sheets covered with writing. He took them to his employer, who, on scrutinizing the manuscript, discovered the signature of Robespierre. It proved to be an essay on crime, written for the Amiens Academy, which had offered a prize for the best production on the subject in 1785. Robespierre did not win.

The Berlin Freisinniger Zeitung com tenting upon recent army legislation, says here are officers of the German army who there are officers of the German army who go so far as to demand that Germany shall be able to place in the field a force equal to the combined armies of France and Russia. In other words, a population of 50,000,000 must turn out as many soldiers as a population of 130,000,000. The Friesinniger also says that if these enthusiasts could have their way all of the old women would he called into service, and it thinks it would prove about as effective as the old men recently added to the reserve.

paper. For this purpose there is used the common rocella, which is found in all tropical seas, but particularly and abundantly in the Mediterranean, being, in fact, a lichen which grows on the rocks in the water and near the shore. The litmus is prepared by macerating the plant in water with lime, potash, and other substances, and leaving it in this condition until fermentation follows. On this taking place it first turns red and then blue, and on the whole mass becoming of the desired blue color, it is pressed into a mould and made into small rectangular cakes, which have the appearance of indigo and the smell of violets. In producing the litmus an infusion of the latter is made with boiling water, and unsized paper is sosked in this, being afterward dried. The natural color of the paper is blue; the red litmus is made by treating the preparation with acids so as to give it a reddish tinge.

A process of neculiar value to textile

A process of peculiar value to textile manufacturers has lately been introduced manufacturers has lately been introduced abroad, namely, the production of dyestuffs dyeing yellow on chrome-mordanted wool, and which are said to be absolutely perfect as regards fastness to light, soap, and fuling, a quality of the utmost value, and hitherto seemingly unattainable, for though there are many coal-tar yellows known, which have been extensively employed in dyeing wools, none have been able to quite supercede the fustic and Persian berries, as also others of the natural dyestuffs, although some of the coal-tar yellows possess the distinct advantage of being fast to light. The principle reason, as stated, why the natural yellow dyestuffs continue to be used is that the colors produced by their aid on wool possess, in especial, a great degree of fasteness when the dyed fabrics are subject to fulling, milling, or washing, this most valuable property not being possessed by any of the known coal-tar yellows. Another important process lately brought to notice in this line is that for producing black on silk of such a character as to render the material fast to light, acids, and soaping. This meets the defect characterizing silk blacks ordinarily, namely, that being produced from logwood they are affected by acids, which redden them, and the fabric, when made into ciothes, is more or less affected by perspiration. abroad, namely, the production of dyestuffs

by perspiration. GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE.

[From the Canada Farmers' Eun.] When the act of Confederation was adopted it was supposed that Canada was being furnished with a proper form of government; that is a government of the people, by the people, for the people. In stead of this we have a government of the people, by the representatives, for the classes who can pull the strings.

There never was and there never will be for any length of time a government for the people until there first comes a govern-

Same recently added to the reserve.

For years the great geographer Dr.

For remain being the theory with many for the control of the control

One of the most remarkable geological substances found in any part of the world is a stone believed to be peculiar to Finland, where it occurs in many localities, its peculiar property being that of a natural barometer, curiously foretelling, by change of color, the probable character of the weather in the near future. It is known by the name of the semakuir, and is said to turn black shortly before an approaching turn black shortly before an approaching rain, while in fine weather it is interesting phenomenon was a mystory, but an analysis of the stone shows it to be a lossif mixed with clay and containing a portion of tock sait and nitre. This fact being known, the explanation of the changes was casy, that is, the sait, absorbing the moisture, turned black when the conditions were favorable for rain, while the dryness of the stores of the sto

Voting under the initiative may always be arranged for at the same time as the municipal elections, thus avoiding any additional expense, except the printing of the extra ballot papers.

X X X

Consider the grand educational effect when every voter is asked to exercise his

when every voter is asked to exercise his personall judgment upon matters which affect the nation as provided for by an initiative law. By the living rules of experience will the most practical questions be determined. Patriotism under the initiative will have

the incentive which is afforded by an active participation in making the laws and destiny of the country. With politics purified and the government administered by the people in their own interests under the initiative, one

might well be proud to call himself a How long would it take the country to cut down the Governor-General's salary and wipe out the useless expense of a

Senate, if they had an initiative law in There must be something radically wrong in a system which makes an ordinarily honest man dishonest. That is the history of our politics. Even the ordinary water has grown to institute trickers and any voter has grown to justify trickery and un fairness when done by his party friends. An initiative law would remedy this bane

ful condition of affairs. An important difference between th plebiscite, as that term is now being used in Canada, and the referendum is that in the plebiscite the people have no voice in saying when or in what form questions shall be submitted to popular vote, while

A proper settlement to avoid complications would be desirable. Consult a solicitor.

CULROSS.—A man about a year before his death made his will giving his farm to his son, and all his chattels to his wife, and appointed her sole executrix; but the son being afraid his father might change his mind, wanted a deed, so the father deeded the place to the son, all living together. He bound the son to give him and his wife a certain amount every year as long as either of them should live, and let the son start to do business and use the horses, implements, cattle, etc. Some months after his death the wife proved the will, and told the son to not sell the stock without her consent, the son told her to take them away, but as she did not do so he sold a lot of the cattle and kept the proceeds. She told him he would have to replace them, but he did not. The man is not dead a year yet, now she wants to sell all the chattels; can she do so, and can she make the son pay for or replace what he sold, the son refuses to pay for or let her sell the son resues to pay for or let her sell the chattels now as she did not take them before. Ans.—The widow is entitled to all the chattel property upon the facts stated, and as executrix she can legally compel the son to pay for what he has sold and deliver up what he has in his possession, subject to any claims he may have for taking care of same after he had told her to take them away.



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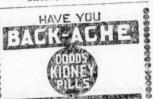




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