## The War of 1812.

Seventy-six years ago — on the 19th of June, 1812—the Congress of the United States declared war against England. At first sight it might seem a plucky, almost a chivalrous thing for a people numbering eight million souls to beard the British lion, to dare to attack the only power that was able to hold its own against the military genius and all-mastering ambition of the great Napoleon. But a closer scrutiny dispels all the illusions of the chivalric character of the deed, removes the glamour of romance and heroism from all concerned in carrying the measure, and reveals the transactionas the declaration of one of the most wicked, wanton wars of aggression that have ever been forced on an infant community by a powerful neighboring nation in its mad lust of conquest and of unrighteous territorial aggrandisement.

From the days of the War of Independence there has existed in the United States a turbulent party, composed of the meaner and less reputable class of American citizens, and augmented from time by considerable accessions of immigrants of the baser sort—Socialistic propagandists from the slumsof German cities, red republicans who had become discredited in France, the *sans culottses* and in short, the riff-raff, scum and offscouring of the European continent in general—and this party, steadily increasing in numerical strength from these more than questionable sources, had constantly held to one idea in its political creed, namely, that Canada should have been cajoled or wrested from the British Crown, so that no foothold should be left for British loyalty on the continent of North America. The party was forever on the look-out for opportunities of attacking England; it had adopted a motto by an unconscious plagiarism from Demosthenes, "and England's difficulty is the United "States' opportunity," became the unwritten law by which their policy was guided. The leaders of the party thought that the opportunity had now come. England was engaged in a Titanic struggle in behalf of the liberties of Europe, and these professors of the doctrines of liberty were not ashamed to countenance and aid to the utmost of their power the efforts of the great despot of the Old World to crush the only Champions of liberty who were now able to oppose him. The infamous Berlin and Milan decrees of the Corsican usurper were replied to by the "Orders-in Council" of the British Government; the French and English marine policy alike told with disastrous effect on the commerce of neutral States, but the blame was fairly chargeable on the Imperial decrees in which the commercial troubles began. Napoleon was the prime cause, and on him alone should have been laid the blame of all the disasters that befell the mercantile marine of the United States in consequence of the restrictions imposed upon the shipping trade of neutrals by the English as well as the French. But this view did not suit the anti-British party of the States. Mr. Jefferson hoped to fan the mean spite of a small faction into a blaze of national hostility; he refused to ratify the treaty of amity, commerce and navigation that had been agreed upon by the American Minister to the Court of St. James and the British Government; and in an angry message to Congress he furiously inveighed against the "Orders in-Council," while he had not a word to say against the Berlin and Milan decrees of the would-be despot of Europe and the world. This was followed by the suicidal policy of the "embargo," whereby Mr. Jefferson's friends did an immense injury, as it was probably intended should be done, to the commerce of the New England States, then and ever the most ardent advocates of liberty, and for that reason the most strenuously opposed to a war with England, from which the only conceivable advantage would accrue to Napoleon, the greatest enemy of liberty then alive. The "embargo" was withdrawn; but in the meantime, and all the time, trouble was arising from the complicated nature of the claims on which England steadfastly insisted, namely, that she, as mistress of the seas, had the "right of search" in all vessels in which she had reason to believe that deserters from her service were being concealed. The affair between the Leopard and the Chesapeake neither reflected credit on the English captain for good sense, nor on the American for personal courage, honor or veracity; but it served to increase the tension of the already strained relations between the peoples of both countries, and the war party in the States made all the capital that could possibly be made out of the incident. From month to month and from year to year this party was steadily gaining the ascendancy, till at length in January, 1812, Congress by a vote of one hundred and nine to twenty-two, resolved to increase the regular troops to 25,000 men and to raise an immediate loan of ten millions of dollars. What this portended required no political Zadkiel to predict; and accordingly no person nor party was very much surprised when the same Congress declared war against England on the 19th of June, and decided that the brunt of the war must be borne by the mere handful of settlers, only 300,000 all told, who had then made Canada their home. The obnoxious Order-in-Council were removed about the same time, so that no decent pretext for the war existed; all the best and most honorable politicians in the United States denounced it as unjust, ungenerous and impolitic; Randolph, of Virginia, opposed it Congress in one of the best speeches ever delivered in that hall of oratory, and a special convention of delegates met in the fall of the year at Albany on purpose to denounce it. But it was all of no avail; the war party thought they would make an easy conquest of Canada, and that was all they wanted; they, perhaps not unnaturally, supposed that a population of 300,000 would fall an easy prey to a population of 8,000,000, and that the 25,000 regulars of the United States would very speedily demolish the 5,800 men of all arms on whom the young colony had to depend for the protection of more than a thousand miles of frontier. The inexorable logic of stern facts has demonstrated how completely the war party was astray in its calculations; the War of 1812 was one of the most scathing rebukes ever administered to a party of avarice and aggression.

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In political circles in St. Petersburg the friendliest feeling is shown towards the new German Emperor, and the belief is expressed that he will continue the peaceful policy o his father.

Major E. C. Browne, an Engishman, writing about the acquisition of Burmah by the British, describes the effect upon the natives of the first exhibition of the electric light. "A great ray of soft light," he says, "shoots across the heavens from horizon to horizon. A flood of light is cast on a spot in the village, but it is off with more than lightning rapidity to illumine another. It heaps and bobs and bounces about the earth in most uncanny fashion. The village is illumined. It visits every portion of it and seems to enter at the doors and windows. At first the people rush away, but finding that in many cases the light follows they throw themselves down with their faces to the earth. In a few minutes the village and river banks are cleared, and the terrified people take refuge in the bush or at the backs of the houses. But this only lasts a very short time. Curiosity is stronger than prudence. So far the light has struck no one dead. Perhaps it may be harmless; so the children, clinging to each other, venture into the glare, then run to their mothers' arms screaming half with fear and half with delight. Some of the big boys then rush out, have a good stare, and having dared so much once more disappear. The ladies seem to gain confidence next to the children. Their curiosity cannot be restrained any longer, so they get together in groups and hide their faces and scream and giggle. Some of the more cheeky ones actually put out their tongues at us and begin dancing and gyrating about. The men, last of all, moodily emerge from their cover, and still not half liking it walk cautiously about, and gradually the village is gay."

## The Biggest Ship Afloat.

The Palgrave is the largest sailing ship afloat. She is 3,078 tons register, which is only twenty tons smaller than the new North-German Lloyd steamship Lahn, and there are only about twenty steamships that exceed this size. Allowing for the great amount of room occupied by the engines and machinery of the monster steamship, together with the space devoted to their passenger accommodations, the Palgrave can carry a larger cargo than any other vessel, except the Great Eastern, that has ever made a voyage. There are only three other sailing ships in the world registering more than 2,500 tons. These are the Reliance, of 2,568 tons, built in Liverpool in 1884; the Fingal, of 2,510 tons, built at Dublin in 1883; the New York, of 2,699 tons, built at Greenock in 1858: the New York, however, has an auxiliary screw propeller, though relying chiefly upon her sails. The Fingal is built of steel and the other two are iron.

The largest wooden ships in the world are the Komandor Svend Foyne, the latter of 2 459 tons, having been built at Maitland, N. S., in 1874 and called the William D. Lawrence (the name of her builder), and the A. G. Ropes of 2,342 tons, which was built at Bath, Me., in 1884. There are comparatively few other vessels of above 2,000 tons even.

To put these vessels on short voyages would not, of course, pay. The profit in them lies in the immense cargoes which they can carry on long voyages in trades which the power of steam has not yet been made to compete with advantage. The Komandor Svend Foyne is the only one mentioned that is in the Atlantic trade, and she has previously been around the world several times; she is now at Antwerp from this port. The Reliance is on the voyage from San Francisco to Liverpool, the New York from San Francisco to Nanaimo and thence to Liverpool, the Fingal from San Francisco for Iquique and Liverpool, and the A. G. Ropes from Liverpool for New York and San Francisco. In the great quantities of heavy machinery and vast amount of other cargo they can carry, these vessels make their earnings. None of them were built as swift sailers and none have accomplished remarkably quick passages, though perhaps this may be due to some extent to the difficulty of keeping them in accurate sailing trim and handling them at sea with as proportionately large a press of canvas as a handier vessel of half the size can carry. The Palgrave was 107 days coming here from Calcutta. This is not a long passage, by any means, but she had exceptionally fine weather all the way, being able to carry skysails nearly all the way. Yet with a good wind on the quarter and all sail set, the best day's sail she ever made was 280 miles, and the run from Calcutta to this port has been made often inless than ninety da .—[New York Paper.

## STATISTI CS.

The Hebrews are returning to Jerusalem. The recent Russian persecutions have led thousands to take up their residence in the ancient city, the Hebrew population of which has increased from 5,000 to 30,000 since 1888.

The greatest feat of baptism in the history of the Baptist Church in modern times was that performed in July, 1878, by J. C. Clough, a missionary, who, with the assistance of five native preachers, immersed 2,222 persons within six hours.

The largest ocean steamer is the *City of Rome*, which consumes about 270 tons of coal a day. The *Umbria* and *Etruria* of the Cunard line, although each about 100 tons smaller than the *City of Rome* in actual tonage, nevertheless consume from 325 to 350 tons of coal daily.

Not content with the Transcaspian railway, the Czar's Government has determined to build a transcontinental road across Siberia, with a terminus on the Pacific ocean. The whole length of the road will be about 5,000 miles, and it is estimated that it will cost 400,000,000 roubles. The first section will be about 2,800 miles long, and will soon be begun.

A few figures:—During the Democratic Convention 2,151,791 words were sent from St. Louis over the Western Union wire.

Lunacy in England is still an increasing factor. There were no fewer than 82,643 lunatics registered at the beginning of the year. Of these only 37,601 were men and 45,042 were women. 74,171 are supported in pauper asylums. Though there are more female than male lunatics, there are fewer supported out of private fund s, the figures being 3,974 to 3,821.

The important roles which cavalry and artillery play in the art of modern warfare make it interesting to know the total number of animals which the leading countries of the world can throw into the field of battle. Here, according to the latest statistics, is the list: Russia, 21,570,000 horses; America, 9,500,000; the Argentine Republic, 4,000,000; Austria, 3,500,000; Germany, 3,350,000; France, 2,860,000 horses and 300,000 mules; England 2,790,000 horses; Canada, 2,624,000; Spain, 680,000 horses and 2,300,000 mules; Italy, 2,000,000 horses; Belgium, 383,000; Denmark, 316,000; Australia, 301,000; Holland, 125,000, and Portugal, 88,000 horses and 50,000 mules. It will be remarked that Russia heads the list by an enormous majority.

## A Camel's Revenge.

An English traveller in the East gives the camel a very poor character. According to his account the creature is from first to last undomesticated and savage, rendered serviceable not by tameness but by stupidity.

One passion alone he possesses, namely revenge, in the carrying out of which he shows in unexpected degree of far-thoughted malice, united with all the cold stupidity of his usual character. One instance of this I well remember.

A lad of about fourteen had conducted a large camel, laden with wood, to another village at about half an hour's distance. As the animal loitered or turned out of his way, its driver struck it repeatedly, and harder than it seems to have thought he had a right to do. But not finding the occasion favorable for taking immediate quits, it bode its time; nor was that time long in coming.

A few days later the same lad had to reconduct the beast, unladen, to his own village. When they were about half way on the road, and at some distance from any habitation, the camel suddenly stopped, looked deliberately round in every direction to assure itself that no one was within sight, and finding the road clear of passengers, made a step forward, seized the unlucky boy's head in its monstrous mouth, and lifting him into the air flung him down again with the upper part of his skull completely torn off.

Having thus satisfied its revenge, the brute quietly resumed its pace towards the village, as though nothing were the matter, till some men who had observed the whole proceeding, though unfortunately at too great a distance to be able to afford timely help, came up and killed it.

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Rev. Mr. Rainsford, now rector of St. George's Church, New York, but formerly of St. James' Church, Toronto, recently made the somewhat startling propoition to his congregation that those of them who were leaving town for the summer should allow poor families of the parish who were well recommended to occupy the basements of their houses during their absence, and that he would be personally responsible for the conduct of the inmates. By this means valuable property would be safely guarded, and poor families would live rent free in comfortable and healthy houses during the most trying season of the year. To the credit of the congregation it may be said that a great many of the wealthy members profited by the suggestion; and now between twenty-five and fifty poor families are living in handsome brown-stone houses. This plan has about it a practical side which ought to commend it to the benevolent minded. Schemes for the amelioration of suffering and poverty are now attempted which fifty years ago would have been pronounced visionary and Quixotic.

## FARM.

### Sweet Potato Cultivation.

The sweet potato is almost an unknown luxury among Northern farmers, yet it can easily be raised anywhere that a good crop of corn can be grown. Not as a field crop, but as a garden vegetable. In its native country it is one of the hardiest of vegetables, where it is often found growing luxuriantly in its wild state. In Georgia, Alabama, and the Carolinas, it forms quite a staple article of food for the negro laborers, but is raised to very little extent for exporting. This causes the cultivation to become very much neglected, as they only aim to supply their own wants.

They very seldom manure the land for this crop, giving their best lands and care to the cotton and corn crops. The tubers are planted there, the same as the Irish potato is planted North, and they are given nearly the same care in the way of cultivation, excepting that the vines of the sweet potato must be loosened up occasionally, to keep them from taking root, where the joints of the vines rest in the mellow earth.

Of course our cultivation of this plant must vary somewhat from its native treatment. Our seasons are not long enough to admit of planting the tubers when the crop is to be raised, even supposing that they did not rot in the ground, which would generally be the case if planted at all early.

One hundred plants, well attended to, will produce several bushels of tubers. This number of plants can be started from the seed tubers in a box two and one-half feet square: the box should be about a foot deep and nearly filled with rich loam. The tubers should be planted about three inches below the surface, and the box kept in a moderately warm room, where the sun can shine upon the earth and plants a portion of the time. They need not be planted in the box before the 15th of April, for it will not be safe to put the plants out before the 1st of June. This number of plants may be obtained at a small cost from a green-house if there should be one in the vicinity. If it is desired to grow them on a larger scale, a hot-bed may be constructed for the purpose of starting the plants. A warm, sandy soil is the most desirable location for the plants, if it is made sufficiently rich. They will do very well on black loam if it is dry and mellow. The plants are hardy, and will bear transplanting as well as cabbage plants. In hoeing, draw the earth up around the plants until there is a hill twelve or fourteen inches high. This will give the vines the benefit of the sun and air. They are luxuriant growers and sometimes cover the ground completely.

Loosening up the vines occasionally should not be neglected, as they will, if undisturbed, strike root at the joints, and thus draw nourishment away from the main root of the plant.

They will continue to grow until the frost touches them, when they should be gathered at once, as a little freezing destroys the flavor. They should be housed and kept in a cool, dry place until consumed. There are many ways of packing them, but in fine chaff is good.

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Every prominent naturalist in the United States was born on the farm.

Hard work and keeping at it insures success on the farm, as it does in all life's duties.

Don't save all the unpleasant jobs for your boy and expect him to "stick to the farm."

Report for the public your failures in crops instead of your occasional booms. You learn more by your mistakes in farming, than you do in success.

As a rule, those crops pay best that require the most care and attention. The brains and the labor are what sell in the markets in the shape of the crop.

It is predicted that the wheat area throughout the West will be greatly reduced the coming year. In Missouri alone the decrease will be 1,048,114 acres less than last year. This is due partly to the protracted drouth which interfered with the fall sowing, and partly to the low prices of wheat.

The strength of a chain is measured by the weakest link; so the weight of the load that may be hauled over a country road is determined by the worst spot on the road. Thus a single negligent roadmaster can fix the size of a load of country produce that is to be hauled out of a township.

Complaint is made from one or two states that farmers' institutes are losing in popularity. Whispers also come from these same states that whenever the farmers get together, a band of lawyers, politicians and tariff orators are sure to appear upon the scene. Any connection between these two facts?

To make hay so as to retain all the good qualities and nutriment of the grass or clover or any other fodder crop, it must be cut when it is in its stage of blossoming. It then contains the most of the valuable nutritious elements and the least of the indigestible matter. And to preserve these nutritious elements from loss, the grass must be cured as quickly as possible.

Said a farmer to his sons: "Boys, you hear me now! Don't one of you ever speckerlate, or go to wait, as Micawber did, for 'something to turn up.' You might jest as well go and sit down on a stone in the middle of the medder, with a pail 'tween your legs and wait for the old brindle cow to come and back up to you and hist already for you to milk her." And the old farmer was just right in his conclusions.

The gopher problem will soon be a live question again, unless there are unusually heavy rains this spring; and the county commissioners ought to take some measures looking to their extermination. We hardly think the offering of a bounty desirable, as it is very expensive and often ineffectual. The counties that have tried it seem best satisfied with poison. The Stuteman Commissioners have just contracted for $345 worth of strychnine for the purpose.

## The Bath.

Farmers and others who work hard in this weather ought to sweat freely. This is healthful, for it carries off dead matter from the body, and thus it is that hard work is better than physic. But the benefit from perspiring becomes more than neutralized unless the effete and poisonous matter which it brings to the surface is promptly removed. Every night at least a sponge wet with water should be passed over the entire body, followed by brisk rubbing until dry. The water may be cold or warm, but for cleaning the skin it should be as warm as the body. A little liquid ammonia added to soft water wonderfully increases its detergent qualities and beside it leaves the skin fresh and cool, admirably preparing the body for healthful sleep. The ammoniated water after being used for bathing is all the better for watering garden or house plants.

The body should not be over heated when you take a bath; neither should it be cold. More harm probably results from sitting on a bank of a stream waiting to "cool off" than could come from plunging into the water at once. Never take a cold bath when the body is cold.

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Mistress—Bridget, I don't think the flavor of this tea is as fine as the last we had. Bridget—Faith, mum, an' me cousins are of the silfsame opinion. They said last avenin' that the aromy were bastely.

Since the last Presidential election there has been an increase of 7,000,000 in the population of the United States. This will give at least an additional million of voters, making 11,000,000 votes to be cast. Over 40,000 of these new votes are in New York State, where the Democratic majority last election was only 1,200. It will be seen that there is a good deal of margin to play upon, but there is no reason to suppose that the united Democracy has not made as many friends among the young voters as have been made by the distracted Republicans.

## CHATTING WITH A PRINCE.

### A Lady's Adventure with the late Kaiser Frederick.

In the spring of 1874 I was travelling in northern Italy with some friends, all of them enthusiastic pedestrians, who had climbed to their hearts' content the usual Swiss and Italian Alps, and were now on their way to begin a tour in the Tyrol. I was not a climber myself, nor, indeed, much of a walker even in a moderate way, and in consequence passed many hours alone while my friends explored the country.

We left Venice one lovely morning the latter part of April, passing Verona and taking the steamboat at Peschiera, at the foot of Lake Garda. We sailed up the entire length of the lake at Riva, the little town situated at its northern extremity, and thereby passing into the confines of Austria.

The next day the only excitement we had before our diligence started for Botzen was the news that the Crown Prince and Princess of Prussia were expected to arrive.

I had lived a great deal in northern Germany, but had never seen either Prince Frederick or his wife, so we all looked forward to the mild excitement of gazing on the then future Emperor of Germany.

The afternoon was lovely, the lake sparkled and danced in the sunlight, and the beautiful road leading directly from behind the house up through the rocks, looked so tempting that I was persuaded to join the others. The fine road was mostly cut in and through the rock forming small caves, and from semi-darkness coming out to find one's self at a great height of ledge going down in a straight line to the lake below. Fearing to tire myself I sat down under the shade of a large boulder, telling the rest of the party I would await their return.

Lost in admiration of the lovely picture before me I sat musing for some time hearing and seeing no signs of life but the myriads of butterflies that had come with the warm sunlike days. Suddenly, to my amazement, I heard a low, suppressed growl, and turning my head, I saw close to me a huge mastiff, standing like a statue, with tail and ears erect, and his large eye fixed menacingly on me. I am not a timid woman, fortunately, and am a great lover of dogs, but as I turned and spoke softly to him he gave another most unpleasant growl. I was beginning to rise and face my antagonist when I heard a sharp whistle and a "Where are you, my boy?" from the other side of my boulder and the next instant a tall, fine-looking man, with a full brown beard, wearing a light soft felt hat, which he had pushed back from his brow and dressed in a loose suit of brown corduroy, stood before me. He carried a light walking stick, and as soon as he saw me raised his hat and holding up the cane at the dog, said: "How dare you, sir!" Then turning to me and still standing bareheaded.

"I trust he has not alarmed you, madam," he said. "He thinks it is his duty to growl, although he would not, I believe, touch any one unmolested."

"He is a magnificent animal," I replied, "and as I am fond of dogs I seldom feel any fear of them, but he appeared so unexpectedly and notified me of his presence before I remembered where I was."

He then called the dog who looked much ashamed by this time, and, seating himself on a rock opposite to me, said to him: "Go ask the lady's pardon or I shall send you home."

Much amused, I held out my hand for the large, tawny paw that was put into it, and, patting the large, fine creature gently on the head, I asked his master his name and age. Where had I seen this man before, and why did he appear so familiar to me? was what I kept asking myself, as we went on talking about the dog. I felt I knew him but where or how I had met him I could not tell. At any rate he appeared not to recognize me. Certainly he was the finest-looking man I had ever seen, of superb build and imposing presence, and his manner and elegant bearing showed him to be one of Nature's noblemen, whatever other rank he possessed. We talked for some time on a subject of interest to both of us—the canine tribe—and when I was telling him of a fine Irish setter that I owned, he suddenly said in excellent English:

"You are I think, an English woman?" We had been conversing in German, a language I had always spoken, and I prided myself on my accent, so that my surprise was great as I laughingly answered in the same language:

"No not, English, but Canadian. But how did you know?"

"Oh, just as you can now hear, I am sure, that I am a German, although I have always spoken English. My wife is English, and she tells me I speak well, but the 'th' of your language betrays me."

Then we both laughed, and I thought to myself, it is a good thing he spoke of that English wife of his, for my poor heart was beginning to be much interested in this exceptionally handsome stranger. Who in the world could he be? An officer, I felt sure. Probably an Austrian—but no; his accent was that of a northerner.

"Are you alone?" he then asked.

I told him I was awaiting my friends, who had gone further up, and just then we heard their voices above us.

"Well, then, I will wish you good afteg, noon, and I hope you will forgive my dor-Anfweider Schen. I hope we may meet again," and with a deep bow he walked away. The next moment I was surrounded by the others, all looking amewith big eyes as I watched the tall man and his dog descend among the rocks.

"Well, Miss M——, will you please tell us where you became so intimate with his Imperial Highness the Crown Prince of Germany?"

"The Crown Prince of Germany?" I repeated slowly; "do you mean to say——" Why of course. It was all clear to me now, the feeling that I had seen him before. I was so familiar with his photographs, which are excellent likenesses, that I thought I knew him. The next morning we left Riva at daylight, and none of us saw the Prince again. Years afterward I was in Berlin, and in walking through the Thiergarten one day I met the Crown Prince Frederick riding with some officers. I knew him instantly, and although he had grown older he was still a splendid-looking man, and looked every inch the Prince. We all bowed, the gentlemen of our party standing bareheaded, according to etiquette, as he passed; but her vanity had a fall when I saw that my moy had quite forgotten me.

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Count von Munster, the German Ambassador to France, in reply to an interviewer, said that he did not think the friendly relations between France and Germany were likely to be disturbed by the death of Emperor Frederick.

The New World is likely to get ahead of the Old World in the matter of railway speed. A New York civil engineer has applied for a patent for a locomotive and tender designed for making faster time than has ever been made in any country. It is claimed that the new locomotive will easily make sixty miles an hour with ten coaches, and ninety-five miles an hour with the same load when driven at full speed.

Mr. Edison's latest invention, the phonograph, is his most marvelous, for he not only records speech but repeats it. It is now perfected for ordinary use and a test exhibition was recently given before a company of electricians and others in New York, which was thoroughly successful. It is said of Edison that he can invent and dictate letters at the same time; that his brain works as easily in one direction as the other.

A traveller in Norway says that the horses in that country have a very sensible way of taking their food, which perhaps might be beneficially followed here. They have a bucket of water put down beside their allowance of hay. It is interesting to see with what relish they take a sip of the one and a mouthful of the other alternately, sometimes only moistening their mouths, as a rational being would do while eating a dinner of such dry food. A broken-winded horse is scarcely ever seen in Norway, and the question is if the mode of feeding has not something to do with the preservation of the animals respiratory organs.

## Britain After Waterloo.

As soon as the battle of Waterloo was fairly fought and Napoleon put away at St. Helena, the Continental Professors, historians, political students, and journalists all began with one accord to prophesy the approaching downfall of Great Britian, which some affected to deplore, and others regarded with complaceney. Everything conspired, it was evident, not only to bring about this decline, but also to accelerate it. The parallel of Carthage—England has always been set up as the second Carthage—was freely exhibited, especially in those countries which felt themselves called upon and qualified to play the part of Rome. It was pointed out that there was the dreadful deadweight of Ireland, with its incurable poverty and discontent; the approaching decay of trade, which could be only, in the opinion of these keen-sighted philosphers, a matter of a few years; the enormous weight of the National Debt; the ruined manufacturers; the wasteful expenditure of the Government in every branch; the corrupting influence of the Poor Laws; the stain of slavery; the restrictions of commerce; the intolerance of the Church; the narrowness and prejudice of the Universities; the ingorance of the people; their drinking habits; the vastness of the Empire. These causes, together with discontent, chartism, republicanism, theism—in fact, all the disagreeableisms—left no donbt whatever that England was doomed. Foreigners, in fact, not yet recovered from the extraordinary spectacle of Great Britain's long duel with France and its successful termination, prophesied what they partly hoped out of envy and jealousy, and feared from self-interest. Therefore the politicians and professors were always looking at the country, writing about it, watching it, visiting it. No, there could be no doubt—none of these changes and dangers could be denied; the factories were choked with excessive production; poverty stalked through the country; the towns were filled with ruined women; the streets were cumberd with drunken men; the children were growing up in ignorance and neglect inconceivable; what could come of all this but ruin? Even—and this was the most wonderful and incredible thing to those who do not understand how long a Briton will go on enduring wrongs and suffering anomalies—the very House of Commons in this boasted land of freedom did not represent half the people, seats were openly bought and sold, others were filled with nominees of the great men who owned them. What could possibly follow but ruin—swift and hopeless ruin? What indeed? Prophets of disaster always omit one or two important elements in their calculations, and it is through these gaps that the people basely wriggle, instead of fulfilling prophecy as they ought to do.

Even now the outlook of the whole world is truly dark, and the clouds are lowering. Yet surely the outlook was darker, the clouds were blacker fifty years ago. Read Carlyle's "Past and Present," and compare. There may be other dangers before us of which we then suspected nothing. But if we still preserve the qualities which enabled us to stand up, almost alone, against the colossal force of Napoleon, with Europe at his back, and which carried us through the terrible troubles which followed the war, we surely need not despair.—"Fifty Years Ago," by Walter Besant.

## Modern Armies.

At a meeting of the members of the Royal United Service Institution held recently in London a paper was read by Col. H. M. Hozier on the equipment and transport of modern armies.

Col. Hozier called attention to the present attitude of foreign nations, with large bodies of cavalry watching each other on each side of frontier lines. In any future war he believed that there would be an increased number of engagements between cavalry, and that by their means much damage would be done at an early period of any war to roads and railways. But these cavalry engagements would never be decisive of the war, and victory would depend upon which side would be able to bring up infantry with the greatest rapidity. This involved railway transportation. There were now everywhere in foreign lands fortresses commanding the lines of railways, and at the first opening of war upon the Continent no doubt a dash would be made at these fortresses to prevent them being victualled for any lengthened period. They must be prepared to strike quick blows, and within a short time of the outbreak of hostilities. They must reduce the weight to be carried by every soldier and by every horse; they ought not to handicap the soldiers by making them carry enormous weights. Next, they must have efficient railway corps, able to repair railways in advancing, and to break them down when they were not wanted. Thirdly, they must do without camp equipment and tents, because they would not be able to carry them in the future.

The whole face of the country everywhere in Europe had changed in the seventy-five years which had elapsed since the last great war; and there was no longer the necessity for such measures to encamp the fighting men as formerly were absolutely necessary. He advocated the soldiers wearing a gray dress in time of war. The kit must be reduced in weight to about 38 pounds, instead of 52 pounds, which it was at present. Men should carry not more than 30 rounds of ammunition at a time. Favor had been shown to taking infantry into action on horseback, but then one man out of every four would be required to hold the horses, and he recommended the substitution of Irish cars—each car drawn by four horses, and carrying fifteen armed men. With regard to the arms carried by a cavalry soldier, he recommended that a triangular sword should be substituted for the present form, because in fighting a man always did more damage by thrusting than by cutting, and that a pistol should be substituted for a carbine. The revolver, he thought, was not a useful weapon for a soldier to carry. The weight which the horse ought to carry should be lightened as far as possible.

Col. Sir O. Burn said in the Indian mutiny they used to put ten men on an elephant, and in that way go long distances. He thought the alteration in the form of the sword was very desirable, as sometimes men would ride through the enemy without doing any damage, whereas thrusts were very dangerous. He hoped that the authorities would not give up their heavy transport yet, because he did not think they would be able, under all circumstances, to depend upon railways.

Col. Hozier, in reply, said he preferred a brown to a gray uniform.

## The Earth to Roll on Forever

An Indianapolis despatch to the Chicago *Globe*, June 4, says:—Rev. T. A. Goodwin, D. D., created a sensation at the meetings of the Evangelical Association of Ministers this morning, reading a paper on "Eschatology." The gist of the paper was that the popular idea that the world will come to an end and will be really burned up and annihilated is a mistaken one. It will go right on forever, he said, and never be destroyed. The inhabitants will die off and each person come to his own individual judgment, but the world itself will have no end. The world cannot afford to go out of business now, when it has just discovered railroads and the telegraph and telephone, and is apparently on the eve of other equally important relevations of the forces of nature, and if it cannot afford to end now how much less can it do so in a thousand years from now? The other ministers present, Methodsists and Presbyterians generally, took issue with Dr. Goodwin, and all thought the subject was one that should not be discussed.

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Farming cannot be learned alone from books and newspapers. It is necessary to take hold of the farm implements with both hands, that a practical knowledge be attained, and then it will require years to learn it thoroughly, with a good assurance of success. This we say to a young man who wants to know how to become a farmer.

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W. G. Grace, the greatest cricketer in the world, will be 40 years old on the 18th of July.

The Zuyder Zee may be drained before long, for the association for that purpose is about to try it.


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## A Tap at the Door.

BY LILLIE E. BARR,

A hand tapped at my door low down, low down.
I opened it, and saw two eyes of brown,
Two lips of cherry red,
A little curly head,
A bonny, fairy sprite in dress of white,
Who said, with lifted face, "Papa, good-night!"

She climbed upon my knee, and kneeling there,
Lisped softly, solemnly her little prayer;
Her meeting finger tips,
Her pure, sweet baby lips,
Carried my soul with hers, half unaware,
Into some clearer and diviner air,

I tried to lift again, but all in vain,
Of scientific thought the subtle chain:
So small, so small,
My learning all;
Though I could call each star and tell its place,
My child's "Our Father" bridged the gulf of space.

I sat with folded hands at rest, at rest,
Turning this solemn thought within my breast;
How faith would fade
If God had made
No children in this world—no baby age—
Only the prudent man or thoughtful sage;

Only the woman wise, no little arms
To clasp around our neck; no baby charms,
No loving care,
No sinless prayer,
No thrill of lisping song, no pattering feet,
No infant heart against our heart to beat.

Then it a tiny hand, low down,
Tap at thy heart or door, oh! do not frown;
Bend low to meet
The little feet,
To clasp the clinging hand; the child will be
Nearer heaven than thee—nearer than thes.

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Handsome women without religion are the flowers without perfume.—[Heine.

A correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says that thousands of Russian peasants have died of hunger during the past six weeks. In the district of Zvenigorodka the peasants seized the cattle of the rich landowners.

"The Pipe of Peace," published at the Genoa Indian school in Nebraska, says that Indians are becoming bald-headed as a result of the change in head-gear from feathers to hats and caps. Perhaps there is a sort of retributive justice in this. The Indians have deprived a great many white men of their hair. The white man doesn't retaliate by scalping, but he gets there almost as effectually by forcing the Indian to wear the deadly hat and cap.


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