

FOREIGN NEWS.

Volapuk is now eleven years old, and it is asserted that 5,000,000 persons are able to use it.

The French papers have started a cry for electric lights in the museums of Paris, now that they have successfully been installed in the British Museum.

The French newspapers declare that the dance as a social joy is doomed, going out of fashion at the command of the women who lead Parisian society.

A sign of the times is the increasing number of erotic illustrated French works of the eighteenth century which now find their way into the book sales.

The Amoor of Afghanistan, it is said, is about to begin grape culture on an extensive scale, and has sent to Europe for experts to instruct him in the arts.

An inmate of a lunatic asylum in Brescia, Italy, was released on Feb. 1, after a seclusion of forty years. During this period his cost to the institution footed up more than \$5,000.

The Empress of Germany has undertaken the protectorate of the Berlin soup kitchens, the late Empress Augusta having for a considerable number of years been at the head of these institutions.

The Czar, according to a recent statistician's calculation, is the largest "private" owner of land in the world. The total is about fifty million acres, about the size of the whole of France.

Shares in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, which paid five per cent. dividend in 1848, are now returning a profit of 150 per cent. per year, making the journal one of the most profitable publications in the world.

An officer of the German army is to be sent to Constantinople with a present of twenty-four kettledrums for the army of the Sultan, to which such implements of warfare have heretofore been unknown.

It is alleged that the Turkish man-of-war *Eryegroul*, bearing a decoration for the Mikado of Japan, is detained at Singapore because her Captain has not money enough to pay the port charges or to buy coal with which to continue the journey.

A curious character in Paris is a man who makes his living by strolling along the Boulevards and making wagers with men at the cafes that he can answer correctly any question that relates to the history of France. He always wins the bet, it is said.

The will of the late Duc de Montpensier disposes of 340,000,000, to be divided between his wife and his son and daughter. It is said, however, that the Duchess intends to go into a convent and leave the whole fortune to be enjoyed by the two children.

Bernhard Polak, a Bohemian, Hungary, recently celebrated his birthday by giving a party to the members of his family. There were present his twenty-seven sons and daughters, twenty-seven sons-in-law and daughters-in-law, fifty-four grandchildren, and sixty-six great-grand children.

In Italy, it is asserted, the opera has become simply a fashionable gathering place for society, and social calls and similar engagements implying the free use of the tongue under the house so noisy that the music is scarcely heard. This fact is alleged to account for the decline of opera in Italy.

Cholera is reported to have broken out in Constantinople, and it is said that a number of those who have been afflicted with the disease have died.

The recent alleged cholera epidemic in Constantinople is said to have been caused by the importation of the disease from the Crimea.

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the Winter Palace, where the ball was held, is so large that 3,000 persons danced there with ease.

After a delay of nearly five years the committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund have received their firman granting permission to excavate on a site previously approved by the late Porte. It is understood that all objects (except duplicates) found in the course of the excavations shall be forwarded to the museum at Constantinople; but that the committee's agents shall have the right of making squeezes, sketches, models, photographs, and copies of all such objects.

During the height of the anti-English excitement in Portugal a new hat styled the "Serpa Pinto" appeared in the shops, and the Portuguese adopted the style at once and bought the hats by the thousand to wear in honor of their hero and as a token of defiance of the English. After a while it came out that the hats were manufactured by an English firm, who had reaped a rich harvest from the Portuguese hatred of the country.

An extensive society in Vienna, devoted to pan-Germanism, is engaged in diffusing the German language among the opposing nationalities of the Austrian Empire. Its efforts are at present being concentrated against the Slavs of Bohemia, Moravia, and Styria as it was found necessary to abandon the attempt to eradicate the Italian language in those of the empire's provinces where its vitality has always been strong and is now increasing.

In France, during 1886, official figures show that the unmarried represented fifty-two per cent. of the entire population. Celibacy continues under the republic, as under the empire, the strongest factor in the progressive diminution of the population, traceable also to intense selfishness and penuriousness. Schemes to tax the unmarried have been discussed by French legislators since the revolution of 1789, with the resulting admission that such taxation would be impotent as a remedy or stimulus to marriage and offspring.

A burglar in Bondy, France, got into the rooms of two men while they were absent, and, fastening the door from the inside, prevented them from getting in when they came back unexpectedly. The police sent for the village locksmith, but he very strangely couldn't be found, so they burst open the door just as the burglar got upon the roof of the building. He was seen and pursued down to the street and into a canal. The shock of the cold bath made him unconscious, and he died in a short time. When they had washed from his face the black with which he had disguised himself the riddle of the village locksmith's whereabouts was solved. He was the burglar himself.

Dr. Nansen, the Arctic explorer, in a lecture before the Geografiske Selskab at Christiania, explaining his plans for a North Pole expedition, advocated the employment of a ship built with a special view to strength, and having its sides constructed at such an angle that, instead of being crushed by the ice, the vessel will be raised by it. The route proposed by Dr. Nansen is through the Behring Straits, where advantage is to be taken of the favorable current to carry the vessel northward and thus attempt to reach the New Siberian Islands as soon as possible. Here the vessel would enter the ice floes and would proceed towards the north pole, in which direction the current would probably carry it.

There has been a terrific fuss at Constantinople in consequence of a German photographer having rashly attempted to take an instantaneous photograph of the Sultan as his majesty was proceeding on horseback to the Mosque. The guard rushed upon him, smashed all his instruments, and dragged him off to prison. The Koran forbids the representation of the human form, and his attempt to photograph the Sultan was regarded as a particularly diabolical crime. It had not been a foreigner who had been so quickly strangled, but, thank God, the Sultan's indignation at his imprisonment in Turkey does not seem to have been very great.

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Col. North, the "Nitrate King," was also conspicuous in the parade. After it was over there was found on a lonely road just outside the town the dead body of a man costumed as Pierrot, who had been stabbed to death. Not far away lay two Pierrot costumes and a hat. It is supposed that the dead man had been one of the masquers in the parade, and that he was either murdered for money or that he fell in a duel with some of his fellow merry-makers. His identity is unknown.

According to Father Girard, peculiar difficulties environ the spreading of the Gospel in Tonking. A visitor at his chapel, who recently asked him why he had nothing but a wooden table for an altar, was told that any day pirates might attack and rob the mission station, and so all the church furniture was made with a view to carrying it away and hiding it at a moment's notice. He added that the Christians of Tonking and Annam, who number about 200,000 souls, build their churches so that they can easily be taken apart and carried off. In times of persecution, therefore, the churches suddenly disappear, and the heathen, who collect a force to profane the Christian temples, are apt to find no trace of them.

Outside of the port Stabiana at Pompeii, in a stratum of cinders, have just been found impressions of three bodies and a tree. Casts taken of them show the three bodies to have been those of two men and a woman. One of the men was in a kneeling position and the other stretched flat on his back. The woman lay face downward, with her arms stretched out. The tree of which casts of foliage, as well as of the trunk, were found, were of the species *Laurus Nobilis*, known to have produced a round-shaped fruit that ripened toward the end of autumn, and, from the form and size of the fruit, it was evidently ripe when the tree was buried which goes to confirm the theory that the great catastrophe took place in November of the year 79 B.C., and not in August, as has been supposed.

A correspondent of the London Times thus destroys the old legend of the Devil's Bridge in the Pyrenees: "The popular legend about the bridge, which spans a mountain torrent called the Tech, near the small town of Ceret, was that it had been built during one night by Satan and his myrmidons, and the fact that the particulars as to its construction had never been found in any of the local archives gave additional strength to this legend. But the registrar of a neighboring town called Prats de Mollo, close to the Spanish frontier, has just unearthed a manuscript, dated 1321, which relates how the notables of that town contributed ten golden crowns of Barcelona toward the building of the bridge at Ceret upon condition that the inhabitants of Prats de Mollo were exempted from paying toll."

The increase of deer in Maine the past year is reported to be due to the fact that they have been driven from Canada and Labrador by large bands of gray wolves.

"Did n't Know 't was Loaded"

May do for a stupid boy's excuse; but what can be said for the parent who sees his child languishing daily and fails to recognize the want of a tonic and blood-purifier? Formerly, a course of bitters, or sulphur and molasses, was the rule in well-regulated families; but now all intelligent households keep Ayer's Sarsaparilla, which is at once pleasant to the taste, and the most searching and effective blood medicine ever discovered.

Nathan S. Cleveland, 27 E. Canton st., Boston, writes: "My daughter, now 21 years old, was in perfect health until a year ago when she began to complain of fatigue, headache, debility, dizziness, indigestion, and loss of appetite. I concluded that all her complaints originated in impure blood, and induced her to take Ayer's Sarsaparilla. This medicine soon restored her blood-making organs to healthy action, and in due time reestablished her former health. I find Ayer's Sarsaparilla a most valuable remedy for the lassitude and debility incident to spring time."

J. Castright, Brooklyn Power Co., Brooklyn, N. Y., says: "As a Spring Medicine, I find a splendid substitute for the old-time compounds in Ayer's Sarsaparilla, with a few doses of Ayer's Pills. After their use, I feel fresher and stronger to go through the summer."

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Allen's Lung Balsam