

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE MONTH

M. Casimir-Perrier, who was President of France in 1894, died in Paris on March 12.

Dr. John Alexander Dowie, former head of the Christian Catholic Church of Zion, Ill., died on March 9.

The resignation of Governor Swettenham of Jamaica has been announced in the British House of Commons.

In the British House of Commons last month the Woman Suffrage Bill, brought in by Mr. Dickinson, was talked out on its second reading.

The King of Siam, Chulalongkorn I., started from Bangkok on March 27, on a trip to Europe. The Crown Prince will act as Regent during the King's absence.

There was launched on the Clyde on March 16 the first of the new class of armored cruisers being built by the Admiralty this year. She is 630 feet long, and 17,250 tons, exceeding the other cruisers by 50 feet. Her engines are turbine, and she is expected to be able to steam 25 knots an hour. Her armament includes eight 12-inch guns, almost equalling the main battery of the 'Dreadnought.' Two sister cruisers will be launched within a fortnight.

The British House of Commons on Feb. 22, by a vote of 263 to 34, adopted the second reading of the bill legalizing marriage with a deceased wife's sister. This is the eighteenth time the measure has passed its second reading, but there are said to be better prospects than heretofore that it may become law during the present session of Parliament.

Prince Edward and Prince Albert, the two elder sons of the Prince of Wales, are, like their father and his brother, to tour the world on a battleship.

In the Russian Douma, on March 19, the Premier, M. Stolypin, announced that the cardinal principles of the present government were: freedom of speech and of the press; habeas corpus on the same basis as other states; the substitution of a single national form of martial law instead of the various local decrees; reform of the Zemstvos; responsibility of officials; agrarian reforms and popular education. Count Lamsdorff, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, died at San Remo on March 19.

By a series of explosions in the dry dock at Toulon, on March 11, the French battleship 'Jena' was blown to atoms, and between two hundred and fifty and three hundred men perished with her, while hundreds more were badly hurt. The debris was hurled literally all over the city, one baby being struck by a flying fragment and instantly killed. Among the killed are Captain Adigard, the commander; Captain Vertere, chief of staff of the Mediterranean Squadron, of which the 'Jena' was the flagship; while Rear-Admiral Manciron was frightfully injured. The cause of the explosions has not yet been ascertained, but spontaneous combustion in the black powder with which the shells were charged is a theory widely held. No two stories of the disaster have so far been found to agree.

The two months' tour of the Ameer of Afghanistan in India, just ended, is looked upon as a sealing of the good feeling established by the treaty of Kabul in 1905, which makes Afghanistan a buffer state against any possible advance of Russia upon India. The Ameer was for the first time designated 'Your Majesty' in a telegram of welcome from King Edward, when he first entered the country. During his stay he went up in balloons and became such an enthusiastic motorist that he has taken several autos back to Kabul. The message sent back to Calcutta from the frontier, the original of which was written with his own hands, has caused marked satisfaction in India. The message begins: 'In the name of God,' and goes on to declare that 'during my short tour of India, I have made more true friends for Afghanistan than could have been made in twenty years if I had not paid the visit,' and concludes with expressing the significant desire that his message be published in the newspapers for the information of the world.

On Thursday, February 21, off the north pier of the Hook of Holland, the Great Eastern Railway Company's steamer, the 'Berlin,' bound inward from Harwich, foundered in a raging snow storm, and of the 143 persons on board only 18 were saved. When the ship broke in two, within a few yards of safety, most of the people were swept away, but some few were still able to cling to the half-submerged stern, from whence they were not taken off until the following Sunday. The last to be rescued were Mrs. Wenneberg, whose husband was swept to death before her eyes, and whose baby died afterwards in her arms; her friend, Miss Thiele, and her sixteen-year-old maid, Anne Rippler. Of the heroism of the two latter, who stayed by Mrs. Wenneberg when they might have got away, enough cannot be said, 'Take the other two first,' persisted the little sixteen-year-old maid, 'I am better off than they are,' and when the men at last reached them, she alone of the three was rational. The hero of the day is Prince Henry of the Netherlands. One correspondent says it is believed that some of the survivors would not have been saved but for his energy exerted over the wearied rescuers.



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