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Current Notes.

Another statue is to be erected in Paris to Voltaire.

A whole page of the London Times, December 11, is occupied with an advertisement of "The United Kingdom Alliance to procure the total and immediate suppression of the traffic in all intoxicating liquors."

A telegram from Japan, received at San Francisco, brings the very interesting intelligence that it is proposed to send twenty-one young ladies, daughters of Dalmians, to America, for the purpose of finishing their education.

A telegraphic despatch informs us that the new company which proposes to lay a telegraphic cable direct from England to New York has been registered. We are glad to see that the company has promised to fix the tolls on its despatches at 20s. per ten words.

A Scotch lady, Miss Jessie Macgregor, has carried off the highest honour at the Royal Academy this year. The gold medal and books for the best historical painting, "An Act of Mercy," has been accorded to Miss Macgregor, who is the second female recipient of the honour.

Twenty-two years ago Count Larendon was walking through the streets of Paris, a gale of wind blowing at the time, when a chimney-pot fell on his head and killed him. During the late storm in Paris some few weeks ago, his son, Count Larendon, was killed in precisely the same way.

Perhaps no other railway in the wide world has obtained such unenviable notoriety for snow blockades as the Union Pacific. Not in Canada, bad as it is, do we hear of trains delayed for days, and even weeks, as has lately been the case on this snow-bound road. There must be a particularly heavy "snow line" somewhere out there.

The largest iron casting ever attempted has been successfully achieved at the Elswick Ordnance Works, Newcastle-on-Tyne, under the direction of Sir William Armstrong and Captain Noble. It was a huge anvil block, weighing 135 tons, to be used with a 20 ton double action forgo-hammer, for performing the necessary forging for the 35 ton Armstrong gun.

The Duke of Persigny died on Friday, the 12th ult., at Nice. He was a Napoleonist of Napoleonists—the more zealous because his zeal was that of a convert. He was concerned in the plots of Strasburg and Boulogne, and he underwent a long imprisonment for his share in the later of these enterprises. He was amply rewarded for his adherence to the cause of Napoleon, but he lived to see his master once more an exile, and Strasburg in the possession of a German instead of a French Emperor.

A number of the friends of Lord Warwick have appealed to the public to subscribe to a fund for the restoration of that part of Warwick Castle which was destroyed by the late fire. Several large sums have been contributed; but Mr. Ruskin, as one of the public, says that, castle-lover as he is of the truest sort, and as an old and thorough-bred Tory, he must say, "If a noble family cannot rebuild their own castle, in Honour's

name let them live in the nearest ditch till they can." He is endeavouring to find work and food for eight starving people living in one room in the heart of London, and why should he be called upon to help to rebuild Warwick Castle?

In the House of Lords the Duke of Argyll, and in the House of Commons Mr. Gladstone, stated, on Monday evening last, that they had received official information of the assassination of Governor General Mayo of India, at the hand of a Mahomedan convict. The intelligence is dismaying, and proves that England's crushing system of rule there is provocative but of passions and cowardly deeds. Earl Mayo was a man who had the respect both of Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Disraeli, and who by his honest, straightforward political creed, and general manliness of character, amply deserved it. We shall extend our remarks on the subject in our next issue.

As the steamship *Colorado* was sailing out the Morsey bound for America, she was run into by the inward bound steamer *Arabian*. The *Colorado* received severe damages, and was run ashore to prevent her sinking in deep water. The *Arabian*, which was comparatively uninjured, rescued all the passengers of the *Colorado*, except five in the steerage, who it is supposed jumped overboard in the panic which followed the shock of the collision and were lost. The passengers were brought back to Liverpool, where they will be transferred to another steamer. Some hope was entertained of recovering her, but she has since broken in two, and is now a complete wreck.

It appears from the recent preliminary report of the U. S. census marshal, that the excess of the number of women over the number of men in England and Wales, in the year 1871, is 623,302 to a population of 22,704,108. This excess has much increased in proportion to the population. In 1851, to a population of 17,927,609 the excess of women over men was 365,159, and in 1861 it was 513,706 to a population of 22,000,000. If the proportion of women which existed in 1861 had been preserved, the excess now would have been only 462,400; so that, whereas during the last twenty years the population has increased 27 per cent., the excess of women over that of men has increased 70 per cent. This is a fact well worthy the attention of our social economists.

The Swiss Diet is considering a new Constitutional Law, which involves a revision not only of the different institutions of the country viewed independently, but also of the fundamental basis on which they all rest,—the relations of the separate cantons to the Federal Government. The project is still in the Lower House or National Council, and the Upper, or Council of States, is waiting for it. The points upon which there has been most debate are the Army Reform and Popular Education; to which may be added the abolition of capital punishment, the compulsory and complete expulsion of the Jesuits, and the assimilation of the civil law throughout the Confederation, especially of that part of it which relates to marriage.

Some curious points have been mooted in consequence of the Bishop of Orleans resigning his seat in the French Academy. Such conduct is inconsistent with the traditions of the Academy, which has decided not to accept his resignation. If the Bishop had been allowed to retire without any protest on the part of the

other Academicians, we suppose he would have been regarded as academically dead, and his *elogue* ought to have been pronounced accordingly. The moral which lookers-on may draw from this embarrassing situation is, that men of distinguished position ought to be careful into what company they go, but that when they have once joined a society, they had better try to hold their own within it, and leave to others the responsibility of turning them out. Bishop Dupanloup, however, probably does not see things in this light at present, for the disturbance he has caused in the Academy has greatly increased his influence and popularity among his friends in the Assembly. He has been elected President of the Committee on the Bill on Primary Instruction.

The lady hippopotamus at the Zoological Gardens, England, has had another little one. Unfortunately baby hippopotamus number two has had as short a career as its predecessor, which was born in the February of last year. From some unexplained cause the animal could not suck, although the mother had plenty of milk. Mr. Bartlett, the energetic chief keeper at the Zoological Gardens, managed to get the little one away from the mother by the summary process of driving the parent into her tank by squirting water into her face with a powerful garden-engine. It was all to no purpose however, for though the baby unzimvooboo, as the Africans would call it, managed to suck down a pint and half of goat's milk, it died on the evening of Wednesday week, at the very early age of eighty-four hours. Its total length, from tip of nose to end of tail, was 3 feet 9 inches. It goes, we hear, to Oxford.

As printed in the London Times, the speech of the Attorney-General for the defence in the Tichborne case had reached the astonishing length of sixty-six feet on the 20th ultimo. The speech is an able one, having redeemed the Attorney-General's reputation at the Bar, which had been somewhat injured by his ineffective cross-examination of the plaintiff. The line of defence which he adopts is to show that the real Sir Roger, while by no means perfect in morals, was a gentleman at heart, and utterly incapable of leading the life which was alleged by the claimant; that he was moderately intellectual, and reasonably refined in his tastes; that he could not have been at Tichborne at the time of the alleged liason with his cousin; and that his knowledge of family affairs was clear and distinct. He further endeavours to show that the claimant is entirely ignorant of the Tichborne family affairs, and very intimate with the affairs of the Orton family, of which it is suspected he is a member. In short, he promises to show by a vast amount of evidence, that the claimant knows of his own knowledge scarcely anything Sir Roger must have known; that he knows a great deal Sir Roger could not have known, and that he has perjured himself in some three thousand instances during the prosecution. Since the defence was opened, the Tichborne bonds have depreciated in value in open market, but this was to be expected. The English papers speak very highly, for a wonder, of the intelligence of the jury, so that we may hope that in the distant future, when the jury renders its verdict, justice will be secured.

The Geographical Society, with a grant of £500, have published an appeal for £2,000 more, in order to send off immediately an expedition in search of Dr. Livingstone. The season for travelling in the country wherein the lost Englishman is supposed to be is already late; but there happens to be a rare opportunity of communicating direct with Zanzibar, through a vessel