

It is stated in Berlin that there will be no change in the German policy as regards the triple alliance.

The Berlin labor conference has adopted a resolution favoring prohibition of the employment of children under 12 in factories or mines.

It is announced that a photographer named Verosez, in Klausenberg, Transylvania, has succeeded in taking photographs in natural colors.

The betrothal of Archduchess Stephanie, widow of Crown Prince Rudolph, to Archduke Franz, heir to the Austrian throne, is announced.

The British house of commons have rejected Labouchere's motion to abolish hereditary representatives in Parliament, by a vote of 201 to 139.

The English University boat race between Oxford and Cambridge took place on Wednesday. Oxford won in 22 minutes, with one length to the good.

The Emperor William has appointed Prince Albert Victor Major of the Blucher Hussars, of which regiment the Prince of Wales is honorary colonel.

Chancellor Von Caprivi has addressed a note to the German Ambassadors abroad, in which he intimates that he will continue the policy of Bismarck.

The Marquis of Salisbury moved in the house of lords on Friday that the report of the Parnell commission be approved. The motion was adopted without division.

Honolulu advices say that King Malietoa has by proclamation excluded native Hawaiians from the Samoan Islands. The King had previously excluded the Chinese.

Lieut. Stairs was entertained at dinner in Edinburgh, recently, by about fifty Merchistonians. He received high compliments for the part he had borne in the African expedition.

A sensation has been caused at Paris by the disappearance of Saint Saens, the composer. A rumor of his death was current, and another report that he had been placed in a mad house.

A rich landed proprietor in Austria has been sentenced to seven months' penal servitude, with occasional days of short rations and sleeping on a plank bed, for inhumanly torturing a farm servant.

Leading Chinese politicians advocate the opening of Tibet to British trade and the conclusion of a defensive treaty with Great Britain. These measures, they urge, will act as a check upon Russia.

By the death of the Duke of Manchester another American lady becomes an English Duchess, the title passing to George Victor Drago, Viscount Mandeville, who married Miss Consuelo Yznaga, of New York.

Mme. Pommeroy, of champagne fame, died at Reims on the 19th inst. She leaves a fortune estimated at four million dollars, and bequeaths Millet's "The Gleaners," the rival of "The Angelus," to the museum of the Louvre.

Mr. Chamberlain, in a speech at Birmingham, said that having seen the results of English administration in Egypt, he had changed his mind and now believed it would be unworthy of so great a nation not to continue the occupation and complete its work.

The Czar, upon receiving the report of a recent duel between officers in the army, said: "Duels in the army are absolutely necessary, and I desire that reports of such escapades shall not be brought to my notice." Why duels should be necessary in the army is not clear.

We have received from Honolulu two numbers of the *Anglican Church Chronicle*, an exceedingly well got-up paper (a little smaller than THE CRITIC) of 16 pages, from which we gather that the Church of England in that distant land is in a flourishing and progressive condition.

A physician in San Juan, Costa Rica, claims to have discovered in the juice of the mauguey plant an infallible remedy for the bite of a mad dog. Half a dozen persons in different parts of the Republic, supposed to be suffering with hydrophobia, have been given instant relief.

Prince Bismarck has had conferred upon him by Emperor William the title of Duke of Lauenburg. He has also been appointed a Field Marshal-General and a Colonel-General of cavalry. It is declared by the evening organs of Bismarck that he declines both the dukedom and pension.

The battle of corsets was fought at a collegiate school for girls in North London. Some of the pupils wear stays and some do not. Between these parties a trial of strength was arranged, consisting of a high leap, a long leap, a tug-of-war and a foot race. There were sixteen competitors—eight on a side. Those who did not wear corsets were victorious all along the line.

It is said that by the breakage of a case containing a lot of snakes belonging to a showman, in Ireland, the work of good St. Patrick has been undone. The event is said to have happened two years ago, and now snakes are said to have suddenly appeared in and around Ballinal, an agricultural region 30 miles north of Casteltaine, the country seat of the Earl of Desmond. The statement may be taken with a pinch of salt.

On the arrival of the S. S. *Parthia* at Yokohama at the beginning of Feb., Douglas Sladen and his party went on board for a six weeks cruise in the China Seas to complete his examination of the C. P. R. route to the east for his book on the function of Canada in the Empire. He will visit Nagasaki, Shanghai and Hong Kong, and on his return to Japan will visit Kioto and other places there. He expects to return to Canada in the summer and the United States in the fall. Owing to the proofs going astray "Younger American Poets" is still in the press, about half the volume being printed.

According to the *Perseveranza* of Milan, important sponge banks have lately been discovered close to the island of Lampedusa, on the southern coast of Sicily. The deposits extend over a surface of iron 15 to 18 marine leagues. All varieties of sponge are discovered here, including those which are in the greatest commercial request, and they are easy to obtain. Greek and Italian vessels have already proceeded to Lampedusa to take advantage of this discovery.

The reception of the Prince of Wales in Berlin was most cordial. He was received at the railway station by the Emperor, Empress Frederick, and her daughters, and a number of Princes of the reigning families of the German Empire. A large crowd assembled along the route from the station to the Castle and warmly cheered the Emperor and the Prince. The Berlin papers welcome the Prince of Wales and refer to his visit as an augury of the cementing of peace.

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