

tional quantities in the village of Brussa, in Asiatic Turkey, where 2,000 small mines are being worked now. The story continues in this way: "Most of the miners are Persians and Kurds. They dig a hole into the earth till they strike a bed of red clay in which the meerschaum lies in kidney-shaped pieces, usually about as big as a walnut and rarely larger than an apple. After a piece is dug out of the clay it is cleaned with a knife, and is then ready for sale. Every Friday the dealers gather, and the meerschaum is sold in open market. There are four qualities—tiramall, birembirlik, pambukli and dakme. The buyers come from Eskieschehr, and about a dozen of them control the market. They wrap the meerschaum carefully in cotton and sell it for high prices. Only about 3,000 pounds of Eskieschehr meerschaum are obtained in a year."

AN INTERESTING AND IT MAY BE IMPORTANT find was made recently by two negroes at the mouth of the Vermillion river in Louisiana. The finders appeared at the Bank of Lafayette and tried to negotiate the sale of a large quantity of Spanish gold and silver coin and declared that these coins had been found by them in an immense old-fashioned cannon buried in the bay. The value of the coin found buried in this strange hiding place is estimated at about \$100,000. A correspondent of the Cincinnati Enquirer writing from Lafayette, La., says that "this story has revived the tradition of Lafitte and his famous band of Corsairs plundering Spanish treasure ships in the gulf and hiding the booty along the coast, or, possibly hot chased by a warship, they threw the cannon overboard in some secure nook for future recovery. Hundreds of people throughout South Louisiana believe that hidden treasure may be found on the coast and even in the interior. Excavations attest the conviction of many that great wealth has been stored away by the famous old sea robbers and only awaits some lucky finder. The negroes' find, if true, will confirm the romantic stories and multiply without number seekers after ready-made fortunes."

IT IS REPORTED FROM WASHINGTON THAT the Manchurian question has been settled satisfactorily to this government. The Washington correspondent for the New Orleans Times-Democrat says: "Assurances have been received from the Chinese government that it will in the near future open as treaty ports several ports now closed to the world's trade. The Russian government has conveyed formal assurance to the United States government that it will not in any way oppose such opening. While the ports to be opened are not yet specified, it is gathered from the communications that they are Moukden, the principal inland port of Manchuria, and Tu Tung Kao, at the mouth of the Yalu river. The state department is highly gratified at this outcome, feeling that it has secured, not only for American commerce, but for the commerce of the world at large, a very substantial gain."

THE PENDING REVOLUTION IN VENEZUELA has for its purpose, so the newspaper dispatches report, the establishment of a new republic to be entirely independent of the Caracas government. A correspondent for the New York Tribune says that General Nicholas Rolando was declared the new leader of the revolutionists by a unanimous vote; that certain English capitalists are interested in the establishment of the proposed new republic and are encouraging the project with promises of financial assistance and securing from Great Britain recognition of the new government as soon as it is organized. In return for these considerations the Tribune correspondent says that the English capitalists have extorted the promise of concessions for the navigation of the Orinoco river which is within the territory of the proposed republic. The new republic if formed will be known as Guayana republic and will comprise all the eastern part of Venezuela extending from the Gulf of Paria to the River Orinoco including the River Orinoco territory. It is proposed to elect General Rolando president of the new republic. Later dispatches, however, do not give great encouragement to the belief that the revolutionists will succeed.

AN INTERESTING STORY CONCERNING King Edward and the Liberty Bell is told by the Illustrated London News. The News says: "A good many years ago, when the king—then the Prince of Wales—visited Philadelphia, his majesty, at his own request, was taken through the Independence Hall and shown the relics there

treasured—the original copy of the Declaration of Independence (now at Washington), portraits of the various patriots and many belongings of George Washington. 'But where is the greatest relic of this important occasion,' inquired the prince, 'the Liberty Bell?' The official guide was unable to answer the question. He had never seen the bell, and did not think it had escaped the junk dealer. Finally an appeal was made for information to an old caretaker of the hall, who said he believed the bell was stored away 'somewhere up in the loft.' When the king desired to see or do a thing it is seen and done. After climbing crooked stairways and steep, dusty ladders, he saw revealed, through a veil of cobwebs, the tarnished relic of the revolution. 'I see they have cracked it getting it up here,' said the official guide. 'No,' said the prince; 'it was cracked about 100 years ago, and deserves a better resting place than in an old lumber room.' The remarks of the king bore fruit, and now the Liberty Bell hangs under a glass case, the most-cherished relic of the revolution. The citizens of Boston, Mass., invited the mayor of Philadelphia, an Englishman, late of Stourport, to bring the Liberty Bell to Boston to celebrate the anniversary of Bunker Hill, and it has helped to celebrate the anniversary of that independence for which it rang on July 4, 1776." The London correspondent for the Philadelphia Press, commenting upon this story, says that it is "very pretty, but lacks the one great merit of a good story—it isn't true."

SEVERAL AMERICAN WRITERS HAVE RECENTLY undertaken to show that when a negro becomes eminent it is because he has more or less white blood in his veins. A writer in the New York Times denies the correctness of this position and in proof of his claim cites the career of Sir Samuel Lewis, companion of the orders of St. Michael and St. George, who died July 9 in London. According to the Times writer: "Sir Samuel was of pure African parentage and was born in Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa, in 1843. After passing through the local grammar school he was sent by his father to England to complete his education. He arrived in London in 1866 and entered University College, where he gained prizes and certificates in the English language and zoology. He matriculated in June, 1868, having in the previous year entered the Middle Temple to study for the bar. It may be mentioned that the London University examinations are the 'stiffest' of any in the United Kingdom."

IT IS POINTED OUT BY THIS SAME AUTHORITY that Sir Samuel won in a contest for an essay on the law of real property in 1870 and having passed the necessary examinations was called to the bar at the Middle Temple in 1871. The Times writer says: "Returning to his native land in 1872, he began the practice of his profession, and earned the reputation of being an able and painstaking advocate. He served the local government on several occasions in the capacity either of judge, magistrate, or crown advocate, and offers of permanent employment in the legal branch of the colonial civil service were made to him. But not even the high office of chief justice of the Gold Coast could tempt him to leave the lucrative practice which he had made for himself in Sierra Leone. In February, 1882, he was appointed an unofficial member of the legislative council, an office which he continued to fill up to the time he left the colony in May last. He was the first mayor of Freetown. He was much revered by his countrymen and respected by the European element in West Africa, as his efforts and endeavors were for the welfare, not only of his native colony, but of the whole of the British West African colonies. In 1885 he was appointed companion of the order of St. Michael and St. George, and was created a knight bachelor in 1896. Sir Samuel went to London to obtain surgical treatment for cancer."

AN INTERESTING ILLUSTRATION OF THE development in newspaper methods during the last one hundred years is given by the London Times and attention is directed to it by a writer in the New York Times. The London Times each day prints a quotation from its issue of the same day one hundred years ago. The writer in the New York Times says: "At this period in the last century Napoleon Bonaparte was busily preparing to invade England with an immense army. One can imagine how a modern newspaper would have treated such a 'story' as this. Here is how the Times referred to it in 1803: 'We yesterday received the Paris papers to the 3d instant inclusive. They continue to be filled with addresses

to the first consul, and offers of gun-boats for the invasion of this country. They also contain directions for the ceremonial to be observed by the clergy of the different towns, which is to sanctify the reception of the first consul. Among other forms, the bishop of the place is to present the cross to him to be kissed, on his arrival at the gates; that cross which he so grossly degraded and insulted in Egypt, by displaying it as subject to the spiritual predominance of the crescent. Accounts from Dunkirk state, that the preparations making for the expedition against this country are on a very extensive scale. It is said, that a camp of 100,000 men is to be formed near St. Omer, one of 60,000 at Cherbourg, and another of 40,000 in Holland.'

IN A TREATY ENTERED INTO RECENTLY between the Cuban authorities and the representatives of the United States, all claim to the Isle of Pines was relinquished by this government and the sovereignty over that island was passed to the Cuban republic. The question concerning the sovereignty of this particular island was held in abeyance at the time of the formulation of the peace treaty, but that question has now been disposed of in accordance with the general understanding of what is the correct decision. A writer in the Des Moines Capital says: "The Isle of Pines was named by Columbus 'Evangelist Island,' and belongs to the judicial district of Bejucal. It is about sixty miles from the east to west, with a maximum breadth of fifty-five miles, and an area of about 800 square miles. The population as given by the Anuario del Comercio for 1896 is 2,000. Communication with the main island is kept up through the port of Batabano, sixty miles distant. The principal town is Nueva Gerona, which was founded in 1853, and now has 900 inhabitants. The village of Santa Fe, fourteen miles distant, is much frequented on account of its wonderful hot springs. The Isle of Pines consists in reality of two islands, separated by a tidal swamp. Toward the eastern end of this swamp a few rocky ledges, flush with the water, have been utilized to construct a stone causeway between the two sections. These present a marked contrast. The north side is wooded and mountainous and its soil extremely fertile, while the southern section is low, rocky and barren. The principal products are marble—many beautiful varieties of which exist in large quantities—rock crystal, tortoise shells, pine and turpentine, cedar, mahogany and other valuable woods. There are also deposits of silver, mercury and iron."

TOM REED IS CREDITED WITH THIS STATEMENT that the state of Maine could furnish more statesmen, foxes, water, deer, and peculiar names than any other state in the Union. A writer in the Kansas City Journal says that on one occasion when Mr. Reed had an idle moment, he prepared the following list: Ezek Smith, Hassasiah Jones, Liberty Brown, Calvary Thomas, Hopenstill Waters, Bana Bullock, Killah Manley, Galon Kirk, Summer Allfend, Generous Pascal, Uzza Fellowes, Zophan Harum, Diodamia Gilmore, Mesbach Carson, Cotton Milliken, Piram Sproull, Deluva Dickson and Barcellal Sawyer. These men were all personally known to him.

AN IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY IS REPORTED by the Guthrie, Okla., correspondent for the Chicago Chronicle. This relates to the baptizing of the aged Geronimo and a dozen of his Apache warriors recently before a large crowd of Indians and whites. The ceremony was performed by a Methodist minister and the correspondent says: "With the Comanches sitting on one side of the tabernacle and the Apaches on the other, each tribe, with its interpreter standing in the foreground repeating the words of the white preacher, the minister told the story of Christ, of how the Indian could have full and free salvation and pass through death to the 'real-happy hunting grounds.' At the close of the sermon the minister 'opened the doors of the church' and Geronimo and twelve of his warriors, prisoners of war at Fort Sill, went forward and, through their interpreter, told of their love for the white man's Christ and asked to be received into His church in order that henceforward they might travel the 'Jesus road.' In the afternoon the baptismal ceremony occurred. The minister sprinkled the clear water over the aged chief's head, repeating the words: 'In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, amen,' and Geronimo became a Methodist. Geronimo and 200 of his warriors, captured twenty years ago by Generals Miles and Lawton, are still retained as prisoners of war at Fort Sill. Geronimo was considered the most blood-thirsty Indian of his time."