NEWS OF TWO CAPITALS.

Continued from first page.

year, and there will be no lack of social gayety in the country houses.

London has been filled with shoppers during the week, and the Carlton and other restaurants have presented brilliant shows every night; but there is a great outrush of traffic from every railway station to-day. London will find entertainment in pantomime and spectacle during the holiday season, which opens to-night with a gorgeous revival of "Henry V" at the Lyceum. This will be followed by "The Sleeping Beauty" at the Drury Lane, where the tinsel glories of Sir Augustus Harris's days will be thrown into the shade. The pantomime will reign at many suburban theatres, and there will be some notable charitable entertainments, especially one directed by Mrs. Kendal and Miss Esther Pallliser at St. James's Hall.

Mr. Maurice Hewlett has gone to Devonshire for a holiday before completing the dramatization of "Richard Yea-and-Nay" for Mr. Beerbohm Tree. Mr. J. M. Barrie has gone north with plots for two new plays in his head. Mr. Stephen Phillips is recruiting his health in the suburbs, and the literary men, with few exceptions, are outward bound.

The Christmas dinner at the Whitefriars' Club was a delightful affair, with a good speech by Mr. Carruthers Gould, graceful pleasantries from Mr. Richard Whiteing, a handsome present for Secretary Spurgeon and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" by the guests in true Scottish style.

The artists, headed by Sir Laurence Alma Tadema, are forming an association for business purposes, but sternly reject the idea that it is either a trades union or an industrial trust.

I. N. F.

PARIS.

ART TREASURES OF THE DE LIGNE FAMILY SAVED FROM FIRE.

THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THE SPLENDID COLLECTION AT BELŒIL INTACT—M. CAMBON'S RETURN—THEATRICAL NOTES.

[Copyright: 1900: By The New-York Tribune.]
[BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Paris, Dec. 22.—The last days of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries have been very eventful ones for the princely house of Ligne. On Friday, December 5, 1800, Prince Louis Eugène de Ligne, the great-grandfather of the present prince, was left for dead on the battlefield of Hohenlinden. Prince Louis Eugène was then the sole male descendant of his family, which, with his death, would have become extinct. By a lucky chance his life was saved through the personal attention and solicitude of a young general of the hostile army, afterward known to fame as Michel Ney. On Friday, December 14, 1900, the Château de Belœil, one of the most magnificent mediæval castles in Europe, the name of which for more than five hundred years has been associated with the house of Ligne, was destroyed by fire. All that remains standing of the castle is the blackened masonry of its outlying towers. The Prince de Ligne, his mother, the Princess Dowager Marguerite de Ligne, and his only child, the Princess Suzanne, a young girl of fifteen, were living at Belœil when the fire occurred. On Thursday evening the Princess Suzanne remarked to her father that she smelled something burning, but no attention was paid to this. On Friday morning the flames, which had been smouldering in the centre of the building, burst forth into a blaze. The cause of the fire was the defective flues of the furnace. All the inhabitants of the little village of Belœil, the firemen from Tourney and the neighboring towns, did all they could to suppress the flames, and would have succeeded but for the strong southeast wind. At present the park of fifteen thousand acres, laid out by Le Notre in 1711, is rigorously guarded by gendarmes and soldiers. No one is allowed to approach the ruins, where the Prince himself is working night and day classifying objects rescued from the fire, which are stored in the stables, the pavilions, the orangery and the hothouses.

The Princess Dowager arrived in Paris on Thursday, and, thanks to this lady's courtesy, I am enabled to cable the welcome news that, contrary to all reports hitherto published, the pictures, bronzes, marbles and other works of art, and most of the historical relics, including presents and mementos from the Emperor Charles V, from Philip II, from Marie Antoinette and from Napoleon I have been saved. The Princess said that this was due to the splendid conduct and courageous efforts of the villagers of Belœil, who, like one great family, men, women and children, all turned out and worked with might and main. Among the pictures saved are the 125 family portraits, canvases by Albrecht, Dürer, Holbein, Van Dyck, Rubens and Velasquez. The superb Cranach, the value of which alone was estimated by insurance companies at 700,000 francs, is intact; so also are the famous bronzes by Cellini, the faïences by Bernard Palissy, the ivory carvings by Duquesnoy, the wooden spoon that belonged to Luther, the autograph letter of St. Vincent de Paul, the coral cabinet, a gift of Philip II; the sword of Rubens, and the glaive with which the Counts Egmont and Horn were beheaded. The whole of the valuable library and all the old manuscripts, which form one of the most precious collections of the sort in existence, have also been preserved. The collection of firearms, the most complete outside any national museum, was saved. Not a single picture has been lost, and only four have been damaged, these being paintings on mural panels representing the mission of the Prince de Ligne on the occasion of the coronation of Queen Victoria.

On the other hand, quantities of beautiful furniture and tapestry of the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries have been destroyed, together with rare collections of Saxe and Sèvres porcelain. The Princess Dowager says that her son has decided to rebuild the castle as nearly as possible so as to reproduce what was destroyed. Eye-witnesses describe as most pathetic the sight presented by the Prince, pale with emotion, begrimed with smoke and bleeding from contusions caused by falling embers, standing amid the ruins of the home of his race, and now and again venturing into the flames at the head of a devoted band of villagers and firemen and rescuing his ancestral relics. The saving of these vast treasures of art is an event of worldwide interest, and seems almost as providential as the resuscitation a hundred years ago on the battlefield of Hohenlinden of the present Prince's great-grandfather and namesake, by which the extinction of this illustrious family was averted.

The Prince de Ligne, now in his forty-sixth year, is a highly cultured man of literary tastes. He has expressed his intention of devoting his whole life, energy and resources to the reconstruction of Belœil, a task in which he will have the sympathy of all lovers of art throughout Europe and America.

Zola's letter to President Loubet and the violent attacks upon General André, Minister of War, for his energetic arrest of Major Cuignet cause no real agitation in the public mind, and anything approaching a revival of the Dreyfus affair is considered by those in closest touch with public sentiment here as entirely out of the question. The real wish of the country is to let bygones be bygones, and begin the new century with a clean slate.

The tact shown by the Cabinet in taking occasion to offer the Cross of the Legion of Honor to Lieutenant Simms, formerly Naval Attaché of the American Embassy here, is regarded as a conclusive and satisfactory reply on the part of the French Government to the absurd stories published a few weeks ago in Paris and Washington about that officer's connection with alleged attempts to obtain professional secrets in regard to the French artillery.

M. Jules Cambon, after several long conversations with M. Delcassé, has decided to return to his post at Washington, and, together with M. Bruwaert, French Consul-General in New-York, and M. Louis Hermite, Attaché of the French Embassy in Washington, sailed to-day on La Gascogne. M. Bruwaert, who is accompanied by his wife, formerly Miss King, of Chicago, was received by President Loubet yesterday previous to his departure.

Social activity among the Americans here during the holiday season, which is now in full swing, has so far been confined to small but elaborate dinners and luncheons among intimate friends and cosey little theatre parties. There is plenty of fun and gayety, but it does not take the form of dances or balls. There have been some admirable musical receptions given by the Countess René de Coetlogan and by Mrs. Drake, and a number of agreeable teas have been given by Miss Fanny Reed, Miss Minnengerode, Mrs. Frederick Bridgeman, Mrs. Silvers, Mrs. Bodington, Mrs. Weeks, Mrs. Getty, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. de Garmendia and Mrs. Saint Amant.

The chief topics of conversation at these gossippy little 5 o'clock teas are the successes of two extremely attractive and clever young actresses, Mlle. Jeanne Rolly, at the Gymnase, and Mlle. Yvonne Garrick, at the Odéon, who both come as interesting recruits to replace the waning stars that have for so many years had it all their own way on the Paris stage.

Another topic much discussed is the new golf club, which is about to acquire a lease for twenty-one years of the park of La Marche, in which is a once fashionable steeplechase course, and where the new eighteen-hole links will be opened in January. Messrs. James Gordon Bennett, Henry Ridgeway and Carrick Riggs have each subscribed $1,000 toward the new club, which promises to be a great success. Dues will be 250 francs for playing members and 100 francs for non-playing members; temporary players may secure privileges for 25 francs a week. La Marche is on the Versailles road, five miles west of Paris, and within two hundred yards of the Vaucresson station.

Among the Americans who have left Paris for Cannes are Mr. and Mrs. George Scott, Mrs. Scott Grant and Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Chadwick.

Seven new plays have been brought out since Monday. Among these it is gratifying to record the successful production at the Odéon of a bright and amusing three act comedy by Alexander Bisson and Berr de Turrique, admirably acted by Henri Meyer and Mlle. Yvonne Garrick, and suitable for any ears and eyes. The raison d'etre of the title, "Le Château Historique," is capitally set forth in the very first scene. A crowd of tourists, Americans and others, are being escorted around an old house by a liveried servant, who explains that the château was formerly the abode of Jean Jacques Rousseau and exhibits a number of relics, among them the pen with which the philosopher wrote "Le Contrat Social." The lackey sells the relic for 20 francs to an enthusiastic visitor, the pen being forthwith replaced by another, the sixty-seventh. The historical house has come into the possession of an industrious tradesman, Colombin by name, who is proud to show his new acquisition to all comers, especially as the fees given to the servants make it possible to dispense with the payment of wages. The elder of Colombin's daughters, Marguerite, although married, has fallen in love with a symbolist poet whom she has never seen, but whose works she has read. The husband, in order to punish his wife, persuades an intimate college friend, one Barrois, who is not known to any of the family, to impersonate the poet and act so as to disgust Marguerite by his boorish behavior. This idea will remind playgoers of "David Garrick," made so popular by Mr. Wyndham, which was itself taken from a French piece. Marguerite is completely cured of her infatuation and throws her arms about her husband's neck. Here the play might end but for new complications which occur in the way of Barrois and Genevieve, a younger sister of Marguerite, becoming devoted to each other. This leads to a marriage, but before this result is reached there is a network of ingeniously combined substitutions and incidents conceived in Brisson's happiest vein, which hold the audience's attention until the curtain falls. "Le Château Historique" is likely to have a long run. Mlle. Yvonne Garrick, who secured the first prize for comedy last spring at the Conservatoire, fulfils expectations and has developed into a most attractive ingénue.

The Théâtre des Bouffes Parisiens has brought out an old fashioned opera bouffe in three acts by Pradels and Raboteau, with music by Marius Lambert, called "Le Roi Dagobert." It has a moderate success.

"L'Autre France," a spectacular drama based upon the Algerian outbreak in 1871, written by Pierre Decourcelle and Hugues Le Rout, is of the "Michael Strogoff" type. It is well received and will amuse students during the Christmas holidays.

"Le Petit Chaperon Rouge," a spectacular fairy tale of Little Red Riding Hood in Parisian tinsel, by Ernest Blum, Paul Ferrier and Pierre Decourcelle, with Mlle. Mariette Sully in the principal part, was successfully brought out tonight at the Châtelet, amusing features being a ballet in which the dancers are attired as butterflies, grasshoppers, caterpillars and bumblebees, and another ballet in which they all appear as lace fans.

Besides the plays already mentioned there is a profusion of new one act pieces at the popular little theatres of Montmartre, which are becoming more in vogue than ever, some very clever, but all of them naughty and intended solely for experienced eyes and ears. A witty and graceful little one-act vaudeville called "Le Refuge," by George Berr, of the Comédie Française, was brought out at a fête given on Thursday by the Automobile Club in its beautiful theatre, which seats five hundred persons and is the prettiest "salle de spectacle" of its kind in Paris, and made a good impression. It will be acted frequently during the season in fashionable private theatricals. It was well played by Mlle. Bertiny and George Berr, both of the Théâtre Français.

G. I. R.

"77"

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BOER ALARM SUBSIDING.

RAIDERS APPEAR TO BE DOING NO SERIOUS DAMAGE.

INCIDENTS OF METROPOLITAN LIFE—REVIVAL OF "HENRY V" AT THE LYCEUM.

[Copyright; 1900: By The New-York Tribune.]
[BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

London, Dec. 23, 6 a. m.—The situation in the Dutch territories is clearing slowly. The raiding bands which have invaded Cape Colony have not made any important captures or obtained any considerable number of recruits, and will probably be headed off speedily and forced to retire. They are operating against pickets and petty garrisons and are picking up horses, clothing and miscellaneous supplies. The welcome extended them by Dutch residents who have property to lose is chilly. De Wet is reported in the Ladybrand district with 1,000 men, and Botha is hovering about Standerton with a force of equal strength. The operations of French and Clements against Delarey are not described in detail, but the Boers have apparently been scattered. A small Boer commando is reported in the Pietersburg district, and a larger one is in the neighborhood of Komatipoort. Small bands of guerillas are in other sections of the veldt, but they are without artillery and are incapable of making a serious attack upon the line of communications. The Boer campaign, when exaggerated estimates of the strength of the forces remaining in the field are corrected, is less formidable than is ordinarily represented. The mobility of the raiding columns prevents successful pursuit, but no permanent advantages are derived even from such brilliant episodes as those of Dewetsdorp and Nooitgedacht, harassing and troublesome as are the tactics employed.

Hall Caine, after a two days' visit to London, started last night for Rome, where he will spend his third winter in putting the finishing touches on the new story on which he has been working a long time. He takes with him three completed versions of his novel, and says that, with good luck, he hopes to finish a fourth during the winter. There will not be time for a fifth, as the serial publication begins early in the year.

The marriage of Forbes Robertson with May Gertrude Dermot, of Oakland, Cal., better known to playgoers as Gertrude Elliott, was a quiet affair in Hampstead, attended by relatives and a few devoted friends. The bride and bridegroom will resume their stage engagements in the course of a few days.

The revival of "Henry V" at the Lyceum Theatre last night was the most important event on that historic stage since Irving's last appearance as Dr. Primrose. It was witnessed by an enthusiastic audience in a holiday mood, and was greatly admired for splendor and scenic setting, the brilliance of the military spectacles, especially the embarkation of the English army at Southampton for France, and for the realism of the tableaus, notably the Battle of Agincourt, in which remarkable effects were produced by ingenious methods of lighting. The stage was crowded with figures, and the military scenes were enacted with exceptional animation and fire. Lewis Waller had the voice, figure and bearing requisite for a really fine impersonation of Henry V, and he played the part with manly earnestness, distinction of manner and breadth of style. It was good work, suited to the patriotic temper of the times, and was heartily applauded by the audience. William Mollison was a picturesque figure as Pistol, and his sonorous voice rang through the theatre. E. M. Robson and Alexander Calvert were effective as Fluellen and Macmorris in the comic passages. Zeffie Tilbury and Sarah Brooke were adequate as Isabel and Katharine and Lily Hanbury recited the passages assigned to Chorus. The old play, with its strong appeal to the patriotic feeling of Englishmen, went well and the delight of the audience was unrestrained.

I. N. F.

A RUBINSTEIN MUSEUM.

NOTES OF INTEREST FROM THE RUSSIAN CAPITAL.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 10.—Pious hands have gathered together a number of souvenirs of Anton Rubinstein and established the nucleus of a Rubinstein museum at the St. Petersburg Conservatory. In spite of stormy weather, two or three score of faithful friends and worshippers accepted the invitation to a private view yesterday. The articles, of which there are now about two hundred and fifty numbered ready for cataloguing, fill a small salon. It is believed that if other countries were ransacked there would be found equally as many and as interesting reminders of the great pianist. The present collection appears to have been made almost exclusively in this city. There were a multitude of silver wreaths, palms of oxydized silver and of gold, golden wreaths, unnumbered presentation ribbons, batons of ivory, silver and gold. The walls are covered with engrossed addresses, portraits and pictures of the houses where Rubinstein lived and labored. Among the more personally interesting objects are the hat and the cane of his last years, a cast of his right hand, and his familiar enamelled white grand piano. The most interesting picture is a photograph of the year 1852. The best bust is a life size marble figure made in his old age. There is also a marble bust of Helen Pavloff. One of the most costly articles is a complete writing table set in the celebrated gold enamel ware of this city.

Joseph Constantinovitch Notowitch, editor of the Liberal newspaper "Novosti" and a popular author, celebrated his twenty-fifth anniversary as a littérateur yesterday. He is well known for his popularization of Buckle's "History of Civilization in England" and for several philosophical works. In recent years he has written a number of dramas. M. Notowitch received representatives of various learned and literary societies, journals and newspapers in his home. In the evening there was a rout at one of the clubs, where a literary and musical programme was rendered.

As was recently stated, Governor-General Bobrikoff of Finland called upon the Popular Schools Commission of Finland to supply him with copies of all textbooks on history and geography which are used in the Finnish schools. The Commission answered, according to articles now current in the press, that it would be unlawful for it to use money appropriated for school books in supplying any person other than those connected with the schools with such books. It gave him a list and invited him to buy them for himself. The Commission at the same time protested warmly against a possible attempt to unify Finnish and Russian instruction in these branches.

The St. Petersburg committee engaged in a warfare against intemperance publishes statistics showing that 2,283,000 persons visited its fêtes and entertainments in 1899, which was three times as many as in 1898. It is believed the figures for the closing year will show a corresponding increase. The committee expended 784,000 rubles, of which 202,000 rubles was collected in the form of entrance fees and sales.

A Russian merchant has given 200,000 rubles to establish a mechanical and technical school in a small town in the Government of Twer.

The city of Riga will shortly imitate the capital by introducing popular lecture courses for the masses.

The Southwest Russia railroads have bought 7,000,000 pood of Cardiff coal at 22 kopecks a pood, equal to about $6 40 a ton, and 1,000,000 of Silesian, at 13 kopecks a pood. An English agent has engaged 15,000,000 pood of Russian iron ores for export.

The "Journal of Commerce and Industry" recommends capitalists to turn their attention to sugar production in Siberia. It regards this industry as more remunerative than mining, and thinks all the necessary conditions for success are to be found in the Government of Yeniseisk, where one factory was actually operated from 1888 to 1898.

A naphtha production company, with a capital of 19,000,000 rubles, is being organized at Baku.

The East Chinese Railroad, the prolongation of the Siberian Railroad, has ordered six steamers for the Chinese coast trade. Two will be built at Rostock, two at Trieste and the others at Grabow, near Stettin, Germany. They will be utilized until the railroad is completed in the transportation of material for its construction.

With a view to its introduction into Russia, the Ministry of Public Instruction has ordered the popular schools to teach the metric system concurrently with the national systems of weights and measures.

REDUCED CONSERVATIVE MAJORITY.

London, Dec. 22.—Worsley Taylor, a Conservative, has been elected to represent the Blackpool Division of Lancashire in the House of Commons, in succession to Sir Matthew White Ridley, who was Home Secretary in the late Ministry and who, according to Parliamentary usage, recently relinquished his seat in the lower house on being elevated to the Peerage with the title of Viscount Ridley, who is also Baron Wensleydale. In this election the Conservative majority was cut in two. In the late general election Sir Matthew was unopposed.

WHAT LONDON TALKS OF.

London, December 22, 1900.

ADMIRATION FOR DE WET.—General De Wet would be by far the most acceptable Christmas box to the average Englishman, though there seems little likelihood of the wish being granted. The desire for the suppression of this wonderful Boer leader, however, is accompanied by generous admiration of his latest feat. "It would be unworthy of the British name," says "The Times," "to refuse the credit that is due a feat of arms so brilliant as the unexpected dash backward of De Wet and his men through the British lines." Other papers take the same view, comparing the ride to Springhaan's Nek with the charge at Balaklava. In fact, admiration for the extraordinary daring displayed by the Boers on this occasion almost predominates over the chagrin at the failure of the British officers to cope with their opponents. There is springing up a philosophic indifference to the incapability of the generals in South Africa. Reverses have become the expected. Last Christmas society almost went crazy over plum puddings and chocolate hampers sent to the soldiers on the veldt. This year they are not mentioned. In fact, the public is unutterably weary of the long drawn out struggle, whose only interesting features are the sensational successes of De Wet. This in no way affects the Government, whose determination to fight it out to the bitter end is evident from its decision to reinforce the already huge army in South Africa. Several members of the Cabinet, however, would be heartily grateful were the Boer leaders to sue for peace.

DIPLOMATIC QUESTIONS.—The Nicaragua Canal still fails to arouse any really deep interest here, as it is thoroughly understood that Great Britain will take no action in the near future, and the Chinese negotiations are regarded more in the light of a monotonous farce than a serious problem, thanks to the misunderstandings which have arisen between the Powers themselves. The only quarter in London where the performance is thoroughly enjoyed is at the Chinese Legation, in which Sir Chih-Chen-Lo-Feng-Luh, the Minister of China, mourning in seclusion for his brother, is reported to be in a state of perpetual chuckle over the attitude of Christendom.

AMERICAN COMMERCIAL RIVALRY.—More the question of the day is America's commercial rivalry, which throughout the week has been forming the basis for long analytical articles in "The Express" and "The Daily Mail," written by engineering and other experts, which retail the results of recent trips to the United States under the headlines "Wake Up, England," "Why We Are Falling Behind," etc., reiterating that the English manufacturers lack initiative and are absurd in their conservatism, which is summed up in the following paragraph in one of the articles:

If the foregoing facts are unpalatable it is better they should be known than that the nation should continue to dream on in a fool's paradise until the next cycle of bad trade, when we may find our markets in the possession of others.

ANGLO-DUTCH BOUNDARY.—The announcement that the Netherlands does not consider itself bound by the Paris-Venezuela Commission decisions regarding the Anglo-Dutch frontier is not regarded by the Foreign Office as being of any importance or as likely to form the basis for international friction. The Dutch boundary is a comparatively minor matter on which the Colonial Office has been engaged for some time. The Netherlands Ministers' action is regarded as a step ward off a contingency which, however, Great Britain has not contemplated.

ARTISTS ORGANIZING.—The artists are joining the ranks of organized labor. Headed by Alma Tadema, a group of well known artists, including Prinsep, Dicksee, Stone and Fildes, are sending out circulars to their brethren urging the formation of a professional union on lines similar to those of the Society of Authors. They hope to get seven hundred members to pay a guinea each. The especial object of the organization will be watching the business interests of struggling painters. "As it is now," says Alma Tadema, "the successful painter cares and troubles little about his less successful brothers. But, given an association with common interests, the young, unknown man has an infinitely better chance of forwarding both his own interests and those of his profession."

EDUCATORS PERTURBED.—The decision of the Queen's Bench Court declaring it to be illegal for the London School Board to spend the ratepayers' money for teaching science and art at evening classes for adults has created perturbation. Some ninety thousand pupils are affected, and the whole of London's educational system must be reversed if the House of Lords upholds the verdict. "The Speaker" declares it is the most serious disaster which has befallen education for some time. Columns of comment appear on the subject in the dailies. Other large cities are seriously concerned, as they all have classes similar to those of London. The head masters of expensive schools appear to approve of the decision, maintaining that the School Board is endangering the existence of the secondary schools.

At a conference of the head masters of the great public schools this week one of the speakers severely arraigned the irrational educational methods the schols were forced to employ in order to pass boys as officers into the service. A military correspondent of "The Pall Mall Gazette," criticising the Sandhurst and Woolwich methods, declares that the British authorities admit that West Point is in advance of anything in England. He describes the democratic and severely competitive system in vogue there, saying:

Education at West Point is serious thoroughness rather than an extension of attainments. Its principle is controlling education together with the knowledge of how to make use of it. Like all exceptionally good education it is enormously costly, perhaps the most expensive in the world. But in many ways it is said to be by far the best. An exhaustive comparison of West Point with our own military colleges, as educational mediums, is to the disadvantage of our own institutions. The principal industry in the United States is education. For years past the Americans have earnestly engaged in the business of disseminating knowledge. If Great Britain is to hold her own we must follow in the footsteps of the great Republic or be content with second place.

BRIDGE PROHIBITED.—A sensation has been caused by one of the foremost London clubs prohibiting the game of bridge within the precincts of the club. The committee declares this is the only course by which it can preserve harmony, disputes having become so frequent over the question of rules. It is rumored that the quarrels have developed blows. Bridge is so new that its varying rules create endless differences of opinion, causing more dissensions in clubland than existed over Mr. Gladstone at the time of the Home Rule bill discussion, considering that bridge is by far the most popular card game of the day. It is played extensively by royalty and in almost every country house, generally for high stakes. The club's decision has come in for a lot of criticism.

HOLIDAYS IN ENGLAND.—There will be a merry Christmas in England, though, in consequence, London is already one of the dullest spots in the United Kingdom. The fashionable world has incontinently deserted the metropolis and sought refuge in the country places. There will be such a round of house parties as has been unknown for several years. They will be accompanied by the revival of the queer old customs which a century ago made the season the occasion for unrestrained merrymaking among rich and poor alike. It would seem that those who are able to celebrate realize the necessity for distracting public attention from the events in South Africa. At Osborne the Queen will be surrounded by the Duke and Duchess of York, the Princess of Battenberg and by several of her grandchildren. At Sandringham the Prince of Wales will entertain the Duke and Duchess of Fife and their children with royal Christmas trees. Welbeck Abbey, Blenheim Palace, Hatfield House and all the stately homes of England's aristocracy are filling up with scores of guests prepared to make the most of yuletide. Balls, amateur theatricals and entertainments without end have been arranged, conspicuous among which is the old English custom of a dance in the servants' hall. At the Duke of Devonshire's, Earl Spencer's, the Marquis of Londonderry's and other places of the nobility, Christmas Eve will be marked by the strange spectacle of butlers dancing with duchesses, footmen with countesses and grooms with the daughters of belted earls, while ladies' maids, chambermaids and cooks will hang on to the arms of Cabinet Ministers and other male heads of illustrious lines. The ancient practice of the land owners enjoying the servants' quadrille has almost lapsed, except in the case of a few families. The revival is, perhaps, no little due to the increasing necessity for pampering the British servant. "The Onlooker" says the householders now have to study the comfort of their domestics as much as their own, and quotes one country house where a set of rooms is specially allotted to them for recreation, comprising a ballroom, music room, library and billiard room, in which a marker is kept for the servants' sole use.

THE TREATMENT OF NICHOLS.—In striking contrast to this is the treatment accorded to Bernard Nichols, the American golfer, who defeated the English crack, Peter Paxton, on Thursday. Nichols, who is of English birth, returned here after having passed many years in America. The Touting Bec Golf Club compelled him to lunch in the workshop, though the club members were glad to face the December storm to witness his play. Nichols said:

Had I never been in America and witnessed the lavish kindness bestowed on Vardon and other English players I might not have resented this treatment, but you may be assured I will never remain in England long, and if it were not for meeting Braid on Saturday, who is a personal friend, I would not play on another English links. You may depend on it, Vardon will not remain here long, for I know he will be unable to stand this sort of thing after the kindness he has received in the United States.

The curious thing about it all is that America will soon outstrip England not only in golf playing, but in the manufacture of golf equipment.

MRS. MAYBRICK.—Once again Mrs. Florence Maybrick spends an unhappy Christmas in her prison cell. In spite of the various reports, her chances of liberty are no brighter than last year. Secretary Hay has forwarded to Mr. Choate several private letters, which will shortly be presented to the new Home Secretary, Mr. Ritchie, in accordance with the custom of approaching each new occupant of that office, but The Associated Press learns there is no possible chance of anything being done so long as Lord Halsbury is Lord High Chancellor. Were the Cabinet to discuss the matter, as it did once before, it could only refer it to the Crown's chief adviser, Lord Halsbury, who apparently made the Maybrick case the basis of a feud with the late Lord Chief Justice, Baron Russell of Killowen, and cherishes it just as bitterly now as before Lord Russell's death. When a new Chancellor is appointed Mrs. Maybrick will have a good chance of freedom. The Duchess of Bedford, who is reported to be especially interested in Mrs. Maybrick, tells The Associated Press that she only sees the prisoner in the course of her regular visits to Aylesbury Prison, not especially in the interest of her case, and does not intend to express any opinion of her guilt or innocence.

TITLE FOR MRS. SMITH-BARRY.—Another American woman is likely to be soon elevated to the British peerage, as Lord Salisbury intends to recognize the Right Hon. Arthur Hugh Smith-Barry's services to his party by putting him in the House of Lords. Mr. Smith-Barry married the widow of Arthur Post, of New-York, whose sister, Mrs. Adair, is also well known in London society. Others mentioned for a peerage include Henry Cosmo Orme Bonsor, chairman of the Southeastern Railroad, and James Lowther, M. P. Lord Salisbury has already created nearly ninety Peers. If the present rate is kept up the Upper House will soon be in numerical superiority over the Commons.

CANADIAN INDEPENDENCE.—W. R. Hobbs, head of the recently formed Canadian furniture combine, now in London, has decided that the Canadians have no need of the assistance or co-operation of English financiers, which was originally projected. A significant fact, showing Canada's progress, is that sufficient funds are easily obtainable there, while the new law, coming into force January 1, in the United Kingdom imposes an almost prohibitory taxation on new corporations.

THEATRICAL.—About forty pantomimes will be produced in and around London during the holidays, "Cinderella" being the most popular production, no fewer than nine versions being presented.

Nearly all the theatres are already doing a crowded holiday business.

Phyllis Rankin had a most cordial welcome on her return to the English stage when she appeared in "Florodora" at the Lyric Theatre on Thursday, but she was manifestly nervous, and did not make much of the part of Lady Holyrood.

Frohman's production of "Alice in Wonderland" at the Vaudeville on Wednesday, with Ellaline Terriss as Alice and Seymour Hicks as the Mad Hatter, was not successful from the critics' point of view.

"Mr. and Mrs. Daventry" continues to attract fashionable audiences. The Prince of Wales witnessed the performance on Thursday.

FREEDOM OF UNIVERSITIES.—"Upward of two years ago," says "The Spectator," "the Americans were scandalized by the dismissal of President Andrews of Brown University," and proceeds to draw a long parallel with the case of Professor Ross, of the California University. In so doing "The Spectator" holds to the claim that moneyed power endowing institutions to control learning is entirely fatal to the very idea of a university, remarks that the wealth of the American universities and the generosity of American public men are splendid, says no doubt some of the donations involved loss of freedom, and adds:

A certain commercial atmosphere now envelops some of the universities. We would rather see Oxford and Cambridge poor and free than rich and shackled. If a few trust millionaires are to have their way economic truth cannot be reached in some, at least, of the American universities. It would, indeed, be a sad thing were America, with her free political life, to permit any kind of intellectual tyranny to raise its head in her midst.

TRADE WITH MARINDUQUE FORBIDDEN.

GENERAL MACARTHUR DECLARES THE PORT OF AGNO OPEN.

Washington, Dec. 22.—A general order recently issued by General MacArthur, Military Governor of the Philippines, says that "military conditions requiring it, the port of Boac, island of Marinduque, opened to the coasting trade on June 1, 1900, is closed to such trade, and all trade of whatsoever character with said island is, until further orders, forbidden."

Another order declares the port of Agno, Province of Zambales, opened to the coasting trade, and details Captain Ross L. Bush, 25th Infantry, as inspector of customs at that port.

TOWED EIGHT HUNDRED MILES.

THE HADDON HALL TAKEN INTO QUEENSTOWN BY THE SPRINGWELL.

Queenstown, Dec. 22.—The British steamer Haddon Hall, Captain Petersen, was towed into the harbor this morning, with her propeller gone, by the British steamer Springwell. The Haddon Hall sailed from Swansea for Baltimore on November 28, and had been in tow of the Springwell, which was bound from Galveston for Bremen, since December 15.

The Haddon Hall broke her shaft on December 7 in latitude 49 north and longitude 38 west during terrific weather. She was helplessly tossed about for two days. The Springwell appeared on December 10, but the fury of the gale precluded towing connection. Both steamers drifted before the gale eastward for three days. When the weather moderated the Springwell sent a lifeboat and attached hawsers. There were frequent partings, but the eight hundred miles of towage was finally accomplished.

London, Dec. 22.—Two tugs are towing the White Star Line steamer Cufic, recently at anchor in distress and abandoned by her crew off the Skerries, to Liverpool.

The steamer Somerhill, which towed the disabled steamer Westernland to West Bay, near Weymouth, has lost her mainmast and has her hull damaged, but she is proceeding. The Westernland was towed to Southampton.

INFLUENZA RAGES IN ST. PETERSBURG.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 22.—The influenza epidemic here is so severe that the mortality returns for the last week have been the highest for a decade. The disease has swept the city, and every office has vacant desks, and every private table has, or has had, vacant chairs. The whole city for blocks has been swept from cellar to garret.

A meeting of physicians was summoned to discuss remedies, but scarcely half a dozen responded to the call, the rest being overworked, or themselves being victims of the malady. The weather is conducive to the spread of the disorder, being changeable, with snow and slush alternating.

INDEPENDENT CONSULS FOR NORWAY.

Christiania, Norway, Dec. 22.—The Assistant Secretary of State, Dribsen, is working out consular regulations for an independent consular service for Norway. The diplomatic service remains unchanged.

A CROWN PRINCE MIXES IN POLITICS.

Copenhagen, Dec. 22.—A great sensation has been caused throughout Denmark by an article in the Government organ, "Berlingske Tidende," written by Crown Prince Frederic, defending the Prime Minister, H. de Sehested, from the attacks of Count Frijs. The action of the Crown Prince in mixing in party politics has made a bad impression.

RUSSIA WARNED AGAINST GERMANY.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 22.—Taking the unconfirmed rumor that Germany and Turkey have signed a pearl fisheries convention that in regard to the Persian Gulf for its text, the "Novoye Vremya" urges that the Russian Government exercise eternal watchfulness upon Germany's progress and designs in the nearer Orient, declaring her industrial and commercial activity is a cloak for political plans.

TO WORK SPITZBERGEN COAL MINES.

Christiania, Norway, Dec. 22.—A company with a capital of 75,000 kroner is being organized at Trondhjem for working the coal mines of Spitzbergen.

GOLD MOVEMENT TO INDIA.

London, Dec. 22.—According to "The Statist," it is likely that there will be a considerable outflow of gold to India. Already some £200,000 has been acquired in London for shipment there, a further considerable sum is expected to be taken next week and larger amounts during the first two or three weeks of January. This outflow will somewhat neutralize the effect of the inflow from the interior early in January.

Silver has been freely offered at a lowering price, at which India is again buying. Consequently the price has grown firmer. There are indications that India will be compelled to buy a large quantity next month, probably sufficient to coin nearly four crores of rupees

Financial.

The Financial World.

This Christmas is likely to be remembered in the Street not only from its own events, but from the gratifying contrast they present with Christmas a year ago. The market was then in the confusion and distress following a panic; this year, the confusion, what there is of it, results from a volume of business almost overtaxing the facilities of the Stock Exchange to do it. Over one million shares of stock were done in the two hours of yesterday—something which entirely distances any previous record for the same day. And the special point of the thing is that the great bulk of this great business is done in leading railroad stocks, and is based on the increasing revenues of the roads, which promise larger dividends on stocks already dividend payers, and will promote non-dividend stocks to the dividend paying list; or it results from new financial arrangements, or acquirement of valuable properties, as in the case of the Northern Pacific and Erie companies.

The announcement has been made, unofficially, that the purpose of the Northern Pacific management is to retire the outstanding preferred stock, which may be done on any January 1st up to 1917. The preferred stock is entitled to share equally with the common stock after the latter has received 4 per cent dividends, and it may be called at par. Part of the scheme involves new arrangements in regard to the land grant. The details of the scheme are not yet public property. With the preferred stock out of the way, the common gets all surplus after the fixed charges.

That a scheme to retire the preferred has long been in the contemplation of the Northern Pacific directors, has been well known in the higher financial circles of Wall Street, but not many, even among the well informed, supposed that Mr. Morgan would, or could, press the scheme to such a quick conclusion. It was only two or three weeks ago that a leading banker, speaking of the proposal, added, "But this is a two to three years' work."

In the case of the Erie, it may be said that much of the late rapid rise in its securities, was long overdue, for the earnings of the property justified it. The figures of these earnings have been repeatedly shown, as evidence that the securities were cheap at their then market prices. But so long as no big operator, or combination of them, started a movement, the Erie issues remained the deadest things on the list. The public waited for a leader, as it always does. Probably the thing that delayed the buying of them was the threat to Erie's great coal traffic involved in the Pennsylvania Coal Company's projected line to Kingston. When this obstacle was finally removed by the purchase of the coal company's property, the way was cleared for the long delayed upward movement in Erie securities.

It was said last week that the money was in the Erie preferred stocks. They have been jumping since. The first preferred went up until it reached near to 60, when it went back a little and has hung there since. The simple proposition about this stock is that it will soon pass on to the dividend paying list, as a 4 per cent stock; which means that it will sell between 70 and 80. It may even sell higher, simply because it is an Eastern trunk line stock, which always has a strong attraction for the investor.

In connection with this, one may note the significant advance in the Nickel Plate stocks, which by its extent seems to foreshadow some contemplated financial rearrangements in respect to them.

In the granger group, the big buying of St. Paul has attracted much attention. It is generally credited to Hill interests. Mr. Hill is known to have always had a great idea of the future of the St. Paul road; and one of the rumors in circulation is that much closer relations than have hitherto existed between the two companies, will be established between the St. Paul and Great Northern; more particularly in relation to the use of the St. Paul as the Chicago terminal of the Northern.

An immense business has been done in Southern Pacific and Southern Railroad common. The former stock for a