LEMOINE'S PROTOTYPE

An Ex-Capuchin Monk Who "Buncoed" Cardinal Richelieu.

Paris, January 22.

If the generally accepted theory that M. Lemoine, the "diamond maker," is a fraud be the true one, it is curious to note that he has had a celebrated predecessor, whose methods of proceeding were almost identical with his own. Mercier, the contemporary and enemy of Voltaire, relates in his ponderous "Tableau de Paris," that in the time of Louis XIII an ex-Capuchin monk named Dubois pretended to have discovered the philosopher's stone, the old alchemists' secret for transmuting the baser metals into gold. Dubois had led in his youth much the same roving and adventurous life which is now ascribed to Lemoine. He had travelled in the East, had been a jack-of-all-trades, had exchanged the monastic habit for that of a Lutheran pastor after a sojourn in Germany, where he had made the acquaintance of some of the chief scientific speculators of that epoch, and then, resuming his former Catholic faith, he returned to Paris to exploit his marvellous invention. Some Feldheimer of the period introduced him to Père Joseph, the celebrated "Eminence Grise," the confidential adviser of Cardinal Richelieu.

The Cardinal became interested in the great discovery, and it was settled that Dubois should carry out his experiments before the King. Accordingly, Dubois repaired one fine day to the Louvre, bringing with him a long ladle and a crucible. In the presence of the court he built a furnace, and to show that there was no deception he suggested that a garde du corps, or royal guardsman, should be selected by the King himself to assist him in stoking it. "May it please his majesty," demanded the monk in a loud voice, "to command one of his soldiers to produce ten or twelve musket bullets which I shall now convert into gold." The bullets were produced and placed by Dubois in his crucible, together with a grain's weight of what he called his "projection powder." Then he covered the bullets with cinders and requested, in the same solemn tone, the King, or any one whom his majesty might command, to remove the cinders with the aid of a pair of bellows. The King was so excited that he would let no one use the bellows but himself, and he blew them with such violence that the cinders flew all over the room, covering the Queen, who had her nose over the furnace. When all the cinders had been blown away the nugget of gold appeared. The King and the Cardinal were both so delighted that they kissed the monk; the King declared him a nobleman on the spot, with the privilege of hunting all over the royal domains; the Cardinal whispered into Father Joseph's ear that he would get him a cardinal's hat; he suggested to the King that it would be no longer necessary to tax the people, and that the monarchy might be reduced to a simple expression of sovereignty, the King leading the life of a wealthy country gentleman; above all, France would henceforward dominate all the powers of Europe. The royal guardsman received a reward of 8,000 livres for his share in the day's work, amounting in our money to about $5,000.

Dubois repeated his experiment, producing another gold nugget, and then the royal enthusiasm knew no bounds. A jeweller who was present pointed out that the monk's gold was only of twenty-two carat, which corresponded, oddly enough, with that of the current coin of the realm, but Dubois declared that with a stronger furnace it was quite easy to manufacture pure gold of twenty-four carats, and this explanation the royal party was quite willing to accept. Cardinal Richelieu took Dubois aside and told him in a whisper that the King only required for the time being 800,000 francs a week, but he wanted them regularly. The alchemist agreed to everything, only stipulating for a ten days' delay in which to mix his projection powder. "Twenty, if you like," said the cardinal. But Dubois, who in this respect greatly resembles Lemoine, did no further work. He contented himself with having a glorious time with his friends at the cardinal's expense, and was considered one of the most illustrious men in Paris.

The King became impatient to see great lumps of gold—"salmons" of gold, he called them. The suspicions of the cardinal were at last aroused. He had Dubois clapped into prison at Vincennes, and when the wily alchemist contended that his "projection powder" would only work in a free atmosphere he transferred him to the dungeons of the Bastile. There a confession was extorted from him that he had wilfully deceived "the King, the Queen and my lord the cardinal" by slipping lumps of gold into his crucible which he had obtained by filing gold coins, and he was hanged on June 25, 1637. Mercier, who was one of the precursors of the Revolution, winds up his relation with the remark: "Suppress the tragic end, and could a better subject be found for a comic opera? . . . These great men, all in need of gold, and the victims of a swindler. . . . I laugh over it all, alone, in the depths of my study." From this date a law, introduced by Cardinal Richelieu himself, has been in force, and is not even now considered obsolete, which forbids the manufacture of gold throughout France under heavy penalties. C. I. B.

PRESIDENT INDORSES PRIEST'S VIEWS.

"Celibacy False to God, False to Country and False to Self."

Reno, Nev., Feb. 1.—Presidential approval of his sermon in the Catholic church here on January 19 has been received by Father Rubman. A letter from Mr. Roosevelt tells of his indorsement of the priest's views on race suicide, and the assertions that "celibacy is false to God, false to country and false to self" are essentially upheld.

The President applauded the statement that race suicide, "affinities" and "other outgrowths of modern marriages and divorces" deserve more than condemnation from the clergy. The priest's utterances created a sensation at the time because he said he desired no unmarried men or women to remain in his parish.

CALL FOR BROOKLYN PASTOR.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Middletown, Conn., Feb. 1.—The First Methodist Episcopal Church of this city has extended a call to the Rev. Charles W. Flint, pastor of the Bensonhurst Methodist Episcopal Church, of Brooklyn. It is thought that he will accept. The First Methodist Episcopal Church here is the college church and attended by most of the faculty and students of Wesleyan University.

RAILROAD MEN GUESTS OF H. G. DAVIS.

Washington, Feb. 1.—A dinner in honor of President Oscar G. Murray, of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, was given to-night by ex-Senator Henry G. Davis, of West Virginia, at the home of Senator Elkins, his son-in-law. The custom of giving dinners to railroad presidents is an annual one with Mr. Davis. Among the guests were Chairman Knapp and Commissioner Cockrell, of the Interstate Commerce Commission; President Underwood, of the Erie Railroad; Vice-President Pugh, of the Pennsylvania; James Speyer, of New York, and Vice-President Schoonmaker, of the Pittsburg & Lake Erie Railway. E. H. Harriman, President McCrea, of the Pennsylvania; President Baer, of the Philadelphia & Reading; W. W. Finley, president of the Southern Railway, and President Johnson, of the Norfolk & Western, sent regrets.

NEGRO POLITICIAN SLAIN.

Cranford, N. J., Feb. 1.—Joseph Hewlett, a negro politician, was killed here to-night, and James Hunt, a negro employed by Joseph Cook as a driver, is under arrest accused of the crime. Hewlett, Hunt and some other negroes were playing pool when a quarrel arose between Hewlett and Hunt. Soon after Hewlett was found dead outside the door, with his head crushed in.

DEAD MAN IN OLD SLOOP.

Only Clew to Identity the Letters "M. K." Embroidered on Shirt.

The body of a well dressed man, who the police say may have been murdered, was found yesterday in the wreck of the sloop Andrew Jackson, which has been lying for years at the mouth of Jackson Creek, at North Beach, Flushing Bay. The man's throat had been cut from the left ear to below the chin. The body was taken to Sharp's morgue, No. 79 Flushing avenue, Astoria.

The supposition that the man was the victim of foul play is based on the fact that no weapon with which the wound in the throat could have been inflicted was found.

The man was about sixty years old, 5 feet 10 inches in height, and weighed in life probably about two hundred pounds. He had gray hair, was partly bald and had an iron gray mustache. He had blue eyes and dark eyebrows. The letters "M. K." had been embroidered in red silk on his shirt. No letters or documents of any kind were found.

VALUE OF THE HEPBURN LAW.

W. C. Brown Says Measure Has Released Railroads from Helpless Condition.

Chicago, Feb. 1.—"From a helpless condition of rebates and preferential rates, the Hepburn law has released the railroads, and its value can hardly be overestimated, both to the railroads and to the great majority of the public which did not participate in or profit by such practices."

This is the keynote to the new doctrine of railroad acquiescence to governmental supervision of rates, as advanced yesterday by W. C. Brown, senior vice-president of the New York Central lines, when asked to reply to the philippic launched against the railroads by Senator Francis G. Newlands, of Nevada, at the annual dinner of the Traffic Club of Chicago. Senator Newlands insisted that the railroads are in a state of rebellion against regulation and supervision, and had refused to recognize that they are the servants and not the masters of the public.

Declaring that this is not the fact, Mr. Brown deplored the tendency toward a war of words in high places, insisting that the country at present is an extremely sick patient and greatly in need of the rest cure.

"The principle of the control and regulation of railroads by the nation and the several states has been accepted in good faith by the railroads," said Mr. Brown, "and they have entered in good faith upon the task of adjusting their operations to the changed conditions resultant upon laws recently enacted. The railroads have felt and still feel that in the consideration of legislation so vital to their interests they should be given a fair and impartial hearing, and should have the same right to appeal to the courts to prevent injury or to secure redress of injustice as is accorded other citizens and other interests."

STEALS WOMAN'S PURSE TO BUY FOOD.

After Chase of Three Blocks Hungry Man Attempts to Stab Policeman.

Mrs. Hannah Hart, of No. 137 Remsen street, Brooklyn, was roughly handled by a thief who wrenched her purse from her hand at Court and Remsen streets early last night and attempted to stab the policeman who captured him on the roof of a stable, after a chase of three blocks.

The man told the police that he was Henry Kuhl, a harnessmaker, with no permanent address. He said he had been unable to get work and tried to steal the purse to buy food.

APPEALS FOR ENGLISH IN COLLEGES.

Time to Give It Honor It Deserves, Says Dr. van Dyke to City College Men.

Dr. Henry van Dyke, of Princeton University, who introduced himself as a teacher of reading English at the dinner of the alumni of the College of the City of New York at the Hotel Savoy last night, appealed for a recognition of the importance of the English language in colleges.

"It is time that we looked the facts in the face," said Dr. van Dyke. "We cannot respect ourselves or understand our history until we give to English the honor it deserves, and by recognizing the importance of a study that is intended for the training of men whose life is to be in that language. The object of English teaching in colleges is not to make authors. Heaven forbid! We could not do that if we would, and we should not do it if we could."

If this were the case, Dr. van Dyke declared, there would be a lot of persons depending upon charity, and the magazine editors would go to an early grave or to a sanatorium.

President Finley was also one of the speakers. He spoke of the past of the City College, and appealed to the alumni to identify themselves with the old ideals of their early training. Patrick F. McGowan, president of the Board of Aldermen; Controller Metz and Edward M. Shepard also spoke.

THIRTY-SIX STATES REPRESENTED.

Thirty-six states, the District of Columbia and Canada will be represented by the 640 passengers who will leave New York on February 6 on Frank C. Clark's tenth annual cruise to the lands of sunshine and mystery.

The itinerary includes Madeira, Seville, Granada, the Alhambra, Jerusalem, Alexandria, Cairo, the Nile, Naples, Pompeii, Rome, Nice and Monte Carlo. The cruise, which Mr. Clark conducts personally, will end when the steamer Arabic reaches her home port, some time in mid-April.

RUSSIA'S SALT LAKES.

Consul T. E. Heenan, of Odessa, writes as follows concerning the "limans," or salt lakes, which are situated near that Russian city:

"These limans in reality are nothing more than river estuaries, which have become cut off from the sea by means of a complete bar thrown across the entrance and later raised above the sea level. Owing to great evaporation the originally merely brackish waters in these limans attained such high concentration that it became possible to work them for salt, which, before the discovery of the enormous rock-salt deposits in south Russia, near Bakhmut, was of the greatest importance for the whole of southwest Russia. But these limans have other properties, imparting to them a lasting value. Numerous are the cases where persons taking the baths at the balneological institutions erected at the limans, or even simply bathing in the open air in the limans, have regained health and freed themselves from various forms of gout, rheumatism, etc.

"This peculiar quality of the salt lakes is attributed to the slimy black ooze which forms their bottom, and consists of impalpably fine mineral matter mixed with the ultimate results of the decomposition of quite a wonderful flora and fauna, apparently only present in the salt water of these lakes, but not in that of the sea. The death of innumerable generations of these animal and vegetable organisms was occasioned by the alternate changes in the concentration of the brine, which was either rendered too fresh for them by the small rivers discharging into the lakes bringing down an unusually large volume of fresh water, or which became too salt for any life owing to the opposite cause attended by an extraordinary evaporation; more frequently the latter event. Dying they sank to the bottom and were covered by the fine particles of mineral matter brought down by the rivers as a result of the elutriation performed by them upon the fine grained loess soil over which they flow. Lying under the highly salt water of the lakes the two constituent parts underwent that joint alteration which terminated in the formation of the black mud now constituting the bottom of the limans.

TOO GREAT A RISK.

Although the tramp had seen a great deal of life, he was no judge of character; otherwise he would never have said what he did to Miss Cornelia Hawkins. When she said that she would give him a good dinner if he would saw and split wood enough to pay for it he attempted to appeal to her sympathy.

"Madam," he replied, sadly, "I'd be glad to saw and split the wood, I'd be glad to do anything, but I'm not physically strong. I have a weak heart, madam, and I have to look out for it. You see, I carry my life in my hands, as it were," he said, with what was meant for a wan, pathetic smile.

"Indeed!" and Miss Hawkins gave an incredulous sniff as she glanced at the palms outstretched for aid. "I suppose that's the reason you don't wash 'em—for fear of getting drowned!"—Youth's Companion.

M. D. PURDY TO BE A JUDGE

E. T. Sanford May Be Made Assistant to Attorney General.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Feb. 1.—It is asserted in circles close to the administration this evening that Milton D. Purdy, assistant to the Attorney General, is about to resign his present post, and will be appointed to a seat on the federal bench, probably in the Eighth Judicial Circuit. Mr. Purdy was appointed on the recommendation of Senator Knox when Mr. Knox was Attorney General, and he conducted the Northern Securities case for the Attorney General. He is also the author of the legal scheme of applying to have receivers appointed for trusts existing in violation of the Sherman law.

It is understood that no complaint is made against Mr. Purdy by Attorney General Bonaparte, who clearly recognizes the ability and energy of his assistant, but it is intimated that were the assistant to the Attorney General perhaps a little more congenial to his superior it would make for the greater efficiency of the department. To that end the Attorney General will recommend that Edward T. Sanford, of Tennessee, now an Assistant Attorney General, be promoted to the place to be made vacant by Mr. Purdy's resignation. The assistant to the Attorney General receives a salary of $7,500 a year.

Mr. Purdy, who owes his original selection to Mr. Knox, will also owe his appointment to the federal bench to the influence of the junior Senator from Pennsylvania.

OBITUARY.

DR. WILLIAM JEAN KRAUSI.

Dr. William Jean Krausi died on Thursday at his home, No. 221 Putnam avenue, Brooklyn. Dr. Krausi was born in Germany forty-nine years ago and was graduated from the Eclectic College of New York and from the New York Post-Graduate Hospital. He was at one time president of the State Eclectic Medical Association and at the time of his death was treasurer of the National Eclectic Medical Society in New York State. He was a member of the Brooklyn Yacht Club, Darcy Lodge, No. 187, F. and A. M.; Fraternity Council, No. 504, R. A.; Kings County Eclectic Hospital and Dispensary Society, New York Specific Medication Club, Beachonian Society, E. M. C. of New York and the New York Microscopical Society. He leaves a wife, two sons and two daughters.

THURLOW N. SEWARD.

Thurlow N. Seward, a nephew of William H. Seward, Secretary of State in President Lincoln's Cabinet, died yesterday at his home, No. 213 St. James's Place, Brooklyn. Mr. Seward was born at Florida, N. Y., in 1844, and for thirty-six years had lived in Brooklyn, where he had been in charge of the offices of the American District Telegraph Company. Two sons and two daughters survive him. The funeral will be held on Monday at 8 p. m. at the home.

OBITUARY NOTES.

LEMUEL W. GOSNELL, aged forty-three years, a leading Wisconsin Republican, died in La Crosse on Friday night. He was a member of an old Baltimore family and was one of the leaders in the Montana constitutional convention and had a large part in the drafting of the constitution on which that state was admitted to the Union.

CAPTAIN JOHN S. QUINN, widely known about the Great Lakes as a diver and wrecker, died in Detroit yesterday after a long illness. Captain Quinn was connected with several lake transportation companies, in addition to his interests in wrecking companies.

MRS. MARY QUIMBY-ROWE, widow of Andrew T. Rowe, died yesterday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John H. Huxley, in East Orange, N. J. Her death was caused by paralysis. Mrs. Rowe was a daughter of Allan Quimby, one of the early settlers of Passaic, where she was born ninety-two years ago. She lived in Bloomfield nearly all her life. She leaves three daughters.

MISS ELIZABETH HAGADORN PURDY, who conducted a private school and kindergarten at White Plains, died yesterday after having been ill three days with pneumonia. Miss Purdy was the daughter of Richard L. Purdy, who was for fifty-one years an accountant at the Bank for Savings of New York and for forty years a director of the Harlem branch of the Young Men's Christian Association. Miss Purdy opened her school about two years ago. She was about twenty-five years old.

EDWARD HENRY DURYEE, the youngest son of the Rev. Dr. Joseph R. Duryee, pastor of Grace Reformed Church, at Seventh aveue and 54th street, died from heart disease at his father's home, No. 139 East 36th street, yesterday. He was eleven years old.

2-CENT FARE AIDS NEW HAVEN R. R.

Passenger Receipts Far Larger Than Before Rate Reductions.

New Haven, Feb. 1.—Returns compiled by the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad show that previous to the business depression the reduction on the whole system of the passenger fare to two cents a mile resulted in a large gain in receipts.

The passenger returns for the year ended November 1, 1906, were $21,560,493 (the change having been made in March, 1906), as compared with $20,284,634 the previous year. For the year ended November 1, 1907, the receipts were $22,771,877, a gain of $2,487,243, or more than 12 per cent over the returns of 1904 and 1905. Every month up to November 1, 1907, showed a gain over the previous two years.

KNOCKED ON TO TRUCK BY "L" TRAIN.

Man Was Looking in Wrong Direction for Approaching Train—Body Cut to Pieces.

David Ferguson Hyslop Davis, of No. 949 Forest avenue, was knocked from the platform of the Tremont avenue station by a southbound elevated train last night and instantly killed, his body being cut to pieces.

Davis crossed the platform to see if a southbound train was coming. He was looking in the wrong direction, and just as the train approached he leaned out with his back to it and was knocked on to the track and under the wheels before the motorman could bring the train to a stop.

The motorman, Walter J. Emmons, of No. 4247 Park avenue, was arrested.

JAMES G. TYLER ART SALE.

The private collection of art objects belonging to James G. Tyler will be sold at the American Art Galleries, Madison Square South, on February 6, at 8 p. m., and on the two following days in the afternoons. The collection includes rare Oriental porcelains, European ceramics and many examples of Mr. Tyler's own work. It will be on view daily.

OLIVER GETS RAILROAD CONTRACT.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Chattanooga, Tenn., Feb. 1.—Announcement was made here to-day that the Cincinnati, New Orleans & Texas Pacific Railway had awarded to the W. J. Oliver Construction Company, of Knoxville, a contract for a double track line to connect the main lines of the Southern and Alabama Great Southern railroads with the local terminal properties of the Queen & Crescent system. The work will cost in excess of $100,000.

FORMER NEW YORKER ASKS DIVORCE.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Marshalltown, Iowa, Feb. 1.—The Rev. Charles E. Luck, pastor of the Christian Church at Clemons, Iowa, and formerly pastor of congregations in New York City and Fall River, Mass., filed suit here to-day for divorce against his wife, Mrs. Nettie Luck, of Buckland, Ohio, on the ground of desertion.

NEW HAVEN OFFICIAL OUSTED.

New Haven, Feb. 1.—Mayor Martin removed Jeremiah T. Sullivan, Police Commissioner, from office to-day on the charge of a violation of the election laws in peddling ballots on the last Election Day within the statutory limit of neutral space outside the polls.

PRINCESS EXECUTED.

Pays Penalty on the Gallows for a Terrorist Outrage.

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At St. Petersburg it is asserted in court circles and in the salons of the great world that the mysterious woman who was hanged the other day at Moscow for the attempt on the life of Governor General Horschelmann immediately after the recent visit of Secretary Taft was no other than Princess Elizabeth Metcherski, who, until about a year ago one of the most popular figures at court and in society on the banks of the Neva, suddenly vanished without leaving the slightest trace or clew as to what had become of her. In other countries a disappearance of this kind would lead to sensational gossip and to investigation, not only by the family but also by friends and acquaintances. In Russia, however, even the most highly placed are taught by experience of the past to submit in silence, to make no effort to elucidate the mystery and to take it for granted that if any disappearance has taken place it has been due to the action of the Czar, or rather of his police, and that the person who has vanished is either secluded in some dungeon of European Russia or else well on the way to the more remote districts of Siberia.

Princess Elizabeth Metcherski is by no means the only woman of princely rank in Russia who has allowed herself to become involved in the toils of the Terrorist party, and there are also a number of the daughters and sisters of great dignitaries of the crown who are suffering captivity or banishment by reason of their connection with the Nihilist movement. Princess Victor Nakaschidze and women of the Troubetzkoi, Galatzin, Wolkonski, Obolinski and Stroganoff families have all allowed their political enthusiasm to get the better of their discretion, at the cost of their position and liberty, and at the present moment the daughter of the Russian general Leontieff is serving out a term of penal servitude in Switzerland for the murder in a hotel at Lucerne of an unfortunate citizen whom she mistook for the former Russian Minister of the Interior, Dournovo. In the eighteenth century there were quite a number of instances of women of high rank being put to death, some of them by means of public knouting, on charges of conspiring against the crown. But if the authoress of the outrage perpetrated against the Governor General of Moscow shortly before Christmas turns out to be the missing Princess Metcherski, as would appear (the story having received photographic corroboration), it would be the first instance in a century of a princess of one of the great houses of the Muscovite aristocracy suffering on the scaffold.

In this connection it is recalled that a few months ago Prince Paul Michaelovitch Metcherski, who had been visiting his son, an officer of one of the cavalry regiments of the Guard, in St. Petersburg, was found dead, with a bullet in his brain, in a first class compartment of the express train from the capital on its arrival at Moscow, while on a card lying on the seat of the railroad carriage were found the following words, inscribed in his handwriting in pencil: "From the revolutionaries there is no escape. It is useless to dodge fate." Whether the prince, who was an uncle of Princess Elizabeth Metcherski, was murdered, or whether he committed suicide, or if, having become entangled like his niece in the toils of the Terrorist party and had balked at the perpetration of some outrage exacted of him by his fellow conspirators, he had paid the penalty of his disobedience, remains a mystery to this day.

The Metcherskis rank along with the Troubetskois, the Narischkines, the Gagarines and the Galatzins among those great houses of the Russian nobility which claim descent from Rurik, and from among whom Michael Romanoff was elected to the Muscovite crown. At the beginning of the seventeenth century these Russian boyars assembled for the purpose of electing one of their number Czar. Dmitri Troubetskoi, the general to whom more than to any one else the repulse of the Polish invasion had been due, was their first choice. It was only after he had declined the honor that, on his nomination, Michael Romanoff, the founder of the now sovereign house of Romanoff, was elevated in his stead.

If Emperor Alexander III had been permitted to have his way he would have married Princess Marie Metcherski, to whom he was engaged before becoming Czarowitch through the death of his elder brother, Nicholas. She was compelled to marry Paul Paulovitch Demidoff, and died shortly after giving birth to her son, the present Prince Elim Demidoff of San Donato. It was owing to this romance in his life that Alexander III displayed so much paternal kindness and solicitude to Elim Demidoff, and it was thanks, too, to this that her brother, Prince Metcherski, was allowed throughout Alexander's reign such an extraordinary amount of latitude in connection with his paper, the "Grajdanine" ("Citizen"), which fulfilled in Russia much the same role as Henry Labouchere's "Truth," in London; with this difference, that whereas "Truth" is extremely radical in its political opinions and utterances the "Grajdanine" championed above everything else Muscovite autocracy and conservatism.

PRINCE'S MIDNIGHT VISIT TO THE CZAR.

This Prince Metcherski played a but little known role, and a far more important one than that credited to the late chief procurator of the holy synod, Pobiedonostseff, in persuading Alexander III on his accession to withhold the grant of the constitution to which his father, Alexander II, was about to affix his signature when murdered by the Nihilists. On the night following the assassination Alexander III, after closing his father's eyes, had driven back from the winter palace to his home in the Anitchkoff palace in a close carriage, supporting in his arms his wife, half out of her mind with terror and horror at the spectacle which she had just witnessed—the whole lower part of the body of her father-in-law had been blown to pieces by the fatal bomb. Before Alexander had been long at his palace he was rejoined by General Loris Melikoff and General Miljutin, besides others of his father's ministers, who urged upon him to at once formulate the constitution which the murdered Emperor was to have signed. They declared that it was the only means of preventing the outbreak of a sanguinary revolution. The Emperor dismissed them without giving any definite answer. The entire evening and part of the night he spent alone, walking up and down in his library, occasionally sitting down, harassed with doubts as to what course to adopt. There seemed to be no one to whom he could turn for disinterested advice, no one who did not seem to have lost his head; and if ever he yearned for a friend with whom he could hold counsel, to whom he could apply for advice, it was at that moment, when the very ground seemed to be trembling under his feet.

It was near 1 o'clock in the morning when he was startled by a noise in the anteroom, and, walking to the door and opening it, he found himself face to face with a man arrayed in the gold embroidered uniform of a chamberlain, in whom he recognized Prince Metcherski. Much astonished, the Emperor allowed him to enter the library, whereupon Metcherski fell on his knees at the Czar's feet and passionately exclaimed: "Lord and Emperor, in the autocracy of the Czar lies the whole strength of Russia, as well as its development and progress. It is upon this that her entire future rests." Then, rising, he addressed Alexander at considerable length, with such vehemence and force that he actually fell back into the old Muscovite way of addressing his majesty as "thou." He spoke of the loyalty to the throne of the old Boyar families, of the old territorial aristocracy as constituting the foundation of the traditional autocracy of the ruler. He declared that Russia and the Czar would only be lost when the latter ceased to have confidence in himself or when he surrendered his inherited powers, and that the maintenance of this principle of autocracy was longed for by every true and patriotic Russian. Alexander listened throughout with the utmost attention. He had found what he wanted—a man who reflected his own ideas and who gave them consistence; that, too, with energy and disinterestedness. He thanked Metcherski most warmly as he bade him goodnight.

On the following morning, as soon as Melikoff entered the presence of the Czar, the latter commanded him to sit down and write out his resignation. The die had been cast and the prince's advice accepted. Three months afterward the Emperor took the occasion of summoning Metcherski to the Anitchoff Palace in order to again express his thanks to him, and throughout his reign the prince was in the habit of being commanded from time to time to interviews with the Emperor at Gatschina and elsewhere, much to the dismay of the ministers, who looked upon this intercourse much in the same way as would the English Prime Minister if the late Queen Victoria or King Edward had been in the habit of summoning Henry Labouchere to Buckingham Palace for the purpose of consulting with him about affairs of state.

MARQUISE DE FONTENOY.

FOREIGN NOTES OF INTEREST.

There is no disgrace attached to divorce in Egypt. If mutual admiration wanes with the honeymoon, there is nothing more natural to the Egyptian mind than that the dissatisfied person take steps toward another trial. There are few old maids in Egypt. Widows remain widows only a short time, and, as a rule, no young man is considered fitted for business or entitled to the confidence of the community until he is married.

A Chinaman's peculiarities are many. He shakes his own hand instead of yours, and keeps out of step when walking with you. He puts his hat on in salutation and whitens his shoes instead of blackening them. He rides with his heels in the stirrups, instead of his toes, and his compass points south. His wife wears trousers, while he wears a gown. Often he throws away the fruit of the melon and eats the seeds. He laughs on receiving bad news to deceive evil spirits. His favorite present to his parents is a coffin, and he faces the bow when rowing a boat. His mourning color is white.

The word "Eisenbahnbetriebstelegraphenin spektionsassistenten" would suggest German humor were it not recognized in the census of all the professions, trades and occupations which were covered in the German Empire in June last. The calling in question is that of assistant inspector in the railway telegraph service, and is one of 15,016 different occupations specialized by the census taken in that month. While some of the callings have, naturally, tens of thousands of followers, there are many cases in which there are only a few, and in some only one person in the whole kingdom is earning his livelihood in some manner which makes necessary special classification.

Two centuries ago in England those persons who refused to plead at the Sessions were condemned to the "peine forte et dure" as being "mute of malice." One account describes the infliction of this barbarous punishment on a man who "stood mute" when tried in 1736 for robbery and murder at Lewes Assizes. "They laid on him first 100 pounds weight; then added 100 more, and then made it 350 pounds; yet he would not speak. Adding fifty pounds more, he was nearly dead, when the executioner, who weighed about 238 pounds, sat on the board and killed him." It was afterward discovered that the unfortunate prisoner "stood mute" for the reason that he was deaf and dumb.

Owing to the abundance and cheapness of meat in Australia, restaurant keepers have for years been able to give astonishingly liberal meals for 12 cents. It is the hospitable custom in Australian popular restaurants not to charge for a second helping of anything, and customers can have as many cups of tea as they please after having paid for the first one. The freedom with which this privilege is exercised cuts down the profits of proprietors of 12-cent restaurants. They have decided in conference to raise the price to 14 cents.

Some years ago the inhabitants of a village in a remote part of Ireland greatly desired a bell for their parish church. A wealthy man named Foley promised to present a bell to the church if he could procure one with tones resembling his name, in order that he should not be forgotten by posterity. A bell was purchased and hung in the belfry, and in the tones which announced the hour of service it did not require a great stretch of imagination to recognize the donor's name, "Foley, Foley, Foley." Mr. Foley rubbed his hands with pleasure and vanity at the thought of future generations hearing his name constantly sounding through the village. Not long after, through intemperance and extravagance, he lost his money, and about the same time a crack was discovered in the bell. From that time forth, whenever the bell was rung, the people in the village could distinctly hear the words echoing through the air, "Folly, Folly, Folly."

In making excavations in the choir of an ancient church in Alsace recently the tomb of a certain knight, who was Bailiff of Balbroun about 1560, was opened. There lay his skeleton, in good preservation, but the left arm appeared untouched by time—merely rusty. It was found to be an arm of steel, wonderfully contrived, with a perfectly formed hand, the whole full of springs, rendering the artificial member almost as flexible as a natural arm and hand. The fingers are worked by springs moved by a knob set in the palm of the hand. The thumb has a spring of its own.

An electrical spanking machine is in use in some of the prisons in Italy.

A young actor named Viszary at the National Theatre in Budapest awoke suddenly one morning recently and, as he had to rise early, consulted his watch and discovered that it had stopped at 2 o'clock. Fearing that he might be late for his appointment, he roused his housekeeper and asked her the time. He learned that her watch had stopped also at 2 o'clock. Three other clocks in different rooms had also stopped at the same hour. He learned later that at 2 o'clock that morning his wife had died at a hotel in Venice.

The humanitarian ideas proclaimed at the third Hague international congress and promoted by the United States delegates, especially in regard to the collection of debts by foreign powers, are explained at length in the "Memoria," or annual report, to the Paraguayan Congress, sent by Dr. Cecilio Baez, Minister of Foreign Affairs. This diplomat declares that Paraguay has given its adhesion to the resolutions adopted by the Pan-American conferences at Washington, Mexico and Rio de Janeiro, and above all to those of the Hague conferences. Dr. Cecilio Baez could speak with accuracy of the Pan-American conferences, since he had represented his country at two of them, while he acted as Minister of Paraguay to the United States and Mexico for a period of four years.

THE MOST PICTURESQUE MAN IN MEXICO

A picturesque celebrity, in the person of General Porfirio Diaz, President of the Mexican state, is said to be coming on a visit to England next year. The story of his career glitters with genuine and stirring romance. Diaz was originally a common soldier; but men died quickly in Mexico during the revolutionary wars, and the cleverness, tact and courageousness of Diaz enabled him to become in turn captain, colonel, general, commander in chief, and lastly, President, in which position he wields a greater power over Mexico than the Czar over Russia or the Kaiser over Germany. But he is a wise ruler, and the many reforms he has brought about has transformed Mexico from a land of chaos into one of order and prosperity. When Diaz first came into power robbery and corruption were rife. In fact, bandits kept the country in terror, and the manner in which the President dealt with them shows his astuteness. He offered them amnesty and enrolment in a specially highly paid cavalry corps—or that for every person robbed any bandit caught should be shot at once. Amnesty was accepted. As an illustration, by the way, of the stirring times through which Diaz has passed, it may be mentioned that his record has been summed up as fifty engagements, twice seriously wounded and three times a prisoner.—Tit-Bits.

thanking him profusely, were about to depart, when the aged warrior suddenly remarked:

"There's anither thing, gentlemen, that I can recall to mind." "Ah, indeed! What is that?" eagerly asked the tourists, expecting to hear a most interesting reminiscence.

"Gentlemen," said the veteran in impressive tones, "I weel remember that I was just as thirsty during the whole of the battle of Inkerman as I am now!" The party took the hint.—Dundee Advertiser.

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Meetings.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE, Thursday, February 6, 1908, at 19 West 44th st., 8 p. m. R. A. B. DAYTON, Secretary.

PARROT THAT KILLS SHEEP.

Facts at Last Obtained About the Fierce Kea of New Zealand.

The kea is a mountain parrot found only in the south island of New Zealand, where it lives among the peaks and valleys of the Southern Alps, says "The Washington Post." When it was discovered, in 1856, its chief food seemed to be berries and the larvæ of insects, but in 1868 the report spread that it was a meat eater and a bird of prey of no mean order.

A few years later, when sheep were brought into the mountain valleys, "The Otago Times" printed a story that keas had been seen to descend the mountains, attack sheep in the pastures and kill and eat them. There were similar reports in later years, but they were generally discredited.

A while ago George Marriner, assistant in the biological laboratory of Canterbury College, was assigned the task of collecting evidence and finding out the real facts. His report is printed in the latest annual of the New Zealand Institute.

He has proved that the kea actually lights on the backs of sheep and kills them. He quotes the testimony of thirty-five eyewitnesses who have seen the occurrence, and his map shows that instances of the killing have been observed in nearly all parts of the Southern Alps.

All the witnesses are the owners of sheep stations, their managers or shepherds in their service. Marriner says that in 1900 it was denied in scientific papers that the kea killed sheep, and the fact was never satisfactorily proved before 1905.

Usually one or two birds do the killing, and the others share the spoil. The testimony is unanimous that the kea does not attack sheep in poor condition, but usually takes the pick of the flock.

The bird settles on the ground near its quarry, hops around a little and then lights on the sheep's rump, where it can get the best foothold. It at once begins to tear out the wool with its powerful beak and at last gets its beak into the flesh.

The sheep vainly tries to shake its tormentor off, and at last, frantic with pain and fright, it runs blindly about at its highest speed. Downhill it usually rushes, heedless of rocks and pitfalls, the kea holding on and balancing itself with outstretched wings.

When the beast stumbles the relentless bird rises on its wings, and settles down again as the sheep regains its feet. The race continues until the frantic animal, bruised by falls and maddened with pain