

ITALY'S HAPPY ROYAL FAMILY

ENTHUSIASM OVER THE BIRTH OF ANOTHER DAUGHTER.

The Italian Court Today Essentially Domestic—The Prince and Princess Open Air Children—The Future King Not the Prince of Rome—The Baby's Name.

Rome, Nov. 25.—The birth of a Princess of the House of Savoy was hailed with enthusiasm all over Italy in spite of the fact that another Prince had been hoped



CROWN PRINCE OF ITALY, PRINCE UMBERTO OF PIEDMONT

PRINCESS YOLANDA OF SAVOY

THE ROYAL CHILDREN

KING AND QUEEN OF ITALY

for. The King's one thought was about the Queen, and his solicitude for her showed more than anything else the deep affection in which he holds her.

The Italian court of to-day is essentially a domestic affair. In fact, to those who are fond of witnessing pageants or state ceremonies it is a disappointment that the King is so simple and unostentatious. The whole pleasure and joy of the King and Queen of Italy seem to centre about their children.

To protect their private life from newspaper publicity a strict censorship is kept to prevent any details about the domestic happenings at the Quirinal from reaching the public. The English nurses who have entire charge of the royal children are threatened with instant dismissal should any stories of their doings be told to the outer world.

In consequence except for a chance glimpse which the passerby may get of the

little Princesses and their brother as they drive out into the country from the royal palace little is known of their home life. In order that they may reap the benefits

of playing in the open air the King bought for them a small farm outside the Porta Pia, where they go and play like other little boys and girls.

Besides this there is the villa of Castel Porziano, and often in the spring and autumn the King and Queen, accompanied by the royal children and their nurses, motor

ENGLISH AS JAPS WRITE IT

A QUANT PACKAGE OF LETTERS FROM YOKOHAMA.

The Lover of Charles Lamb—Mystery of the English Language—A Palindrome—A Tragic Letter.

The Japanese certainly do try to learn the English language. They will buy a book, but that doesn't do them any good. It is not at all crack it.

An American gentleman, agent at Yokohama for a trans-Pacific steamship company, now on leave in New York, brings a quaint package of material illustrating the efforts of the English school Japanese to gain a half-Nelson on the language of Shakespeare.

A few months ago a young Japanese applied to the steamship agent for a job as clerk in the Yokohama steamship office. There being no vacancies, the agent civilly got rid of the applicant, and on the following day he received this explanatory letter from him:

DEAR SIR: Many thanks for your spare precious time during business hour of my visit yesterday.

I failed on that occasion, owing rather to my shy nature to speak up my principal motive for a clerk life and should be much obliged if you will take into consideration the cause for my being clerk is that I am a lover of Charles Lamb, with whom I have many points in common. I have an affectionate sister for whose sake I will sacrifice my life and lead a single life like the English humorist. Was he not a clerk in the India Company till his retirement through the approaching age. I said my sister, but to tell the truth, she was my cousin and the past three years she has been a widow, and from pure love, by mutual consent, we will lead a brother and sister life.

My second motive is that I may become a gentleman through your favor with whom I had no means to know each other but such insolent way on my part.

How glad my parents and dear sister be if they hear some day that I get a position like yours.

I intend to enter some school within two or three days and train myself in bookkeeping and in the practice of typewriting.

Hoping you would not kindly forget me through an English front.

Yours faithfully, KATSURUO.

liked by the foreigner, asking your extreme opinion.

Sir, if mine would have been most unfastidious so that the reader would scarcely be interested in it, I do so more speak as it is the student, but for a commoner than your good answer remain here. Yours faithfully,

One of the Japanese employees of the steamship office in Yokohama was surprised to find a letter which he wrote to his agent upon his arrival home.

"My Honorable Mr. M.: I will never forget your kindness. When I was listening to return to my home I felt that I was extremely sorry. I am very glad to hear that your good answer remain here. Yours faithfully,

"Then in the future what appearance they will have to show me." All time on the way home I could not avoid to think fragments of the following phrase: "What is life? What is human being? What is ambition? Life is a dream of dust. What is the immortality of the soul?"

Such uncontrolled thoughts began to occupy their places in my mind. Phanton after phanton. Imagination after imagination, all this I found such an irregular connection of thinking and could not get a categorical thought, but for a commoner I changed from business man to philosopher.

When arrived at my home I saw three doctors and many relations gathered around my brother's bed. At a slight change of condition, all this I found such an irregular connection of thinking and could not get a categorical thought, but for a commoner I changed from business man to philosopher.

But fortunately he came to correct his mind and to perceive objects well after about two hours by taking care of doctors. Then how great was our glad. It was beyond description. But after that he is staying in a very perilous point, whether he will die or live I cannot say. Doctor said his destination can be known in the course of a few days, then I want to know probable tendency of condition of his sickness.

Will you please allow me to stay home one week? I have wished to write you as soon as I came here but could not. Please excuse my unpolite word and crowded sentence. I remain yours, obedient follow. K. M.

Another likely Japanese boy (that is, he was 25 or 26) wanted a job with the steamship company, and he applied for it as follows:

To: S. S. Co. Gentlemen: An anxious to get a job of the firm, but I have some experience at the Custom House, and if you be necessity other at present time, please want me, and I am very sorry for the busy, give me precious Answer. Your respectfully, H. KIMURA.

Here is how a Japanese firm asked for one of the steamship company's maps:

SIR: Kindly we want to give your Hang Map to Hang to My office. SATAMA & CO.

Another firm asked for a shipper's guide, as follows:

GENTLEMEN: I beg to offer to grant me your shipper's guide which you prepared for your shipper's if you can, give me and obliged. T. KATO.

I have made a table of lesson which I wish to do as following:

- 1. 5-6 Swimming 6-7 Walking 7-8 Break-fasting 8-9 Study book keeping by the Book you gave me that I am very glad & wish to learn all finally. 10-12 play sing-song and hymn. 13-2 Fifth Italian luncheon. 2-4 Reading Chinese poem. English Grammar by the book Mr. M. gave me care full selected. 4-6 Bathing-Tex and writing letter. A singing Japanese poem and press. English translation also. 7-10 Dinner. 11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100

A Japanese employee of the steamship company was called to his wife's bedside in Canton, China, and while there he sent the following really tragic letter to the agent's wife.

DEAR MRS. J.—I am arrived at Hongkong 17th December and I have to busy home to see my wife. I am had luck wife was ill when I am left Hongkong to Japan. She has been stop then she have a had cough and asthma to very very ill and not one doctor can be able to quicken that sickness as my wife have after I am home then I am do all my best for her but I can not save her life very. My wife died on 25th December I am very sorry to lost my sweet and kindness wife and spend all my money as I have and a poor children as young my baby only 14 months old now without mother.

I am left my children to my mother and my sister to look after. I hope my sorry soon be over and have to make money again soon. I send you that silver piece by C. P. R. letter box and I hope you received that kindly remember me to all your family and your self kind regards from me. Yours truly, J.

ADVERTISING IN BERLIN. No Billboards—Price of Space on Pillars Fixed by City.

Billboards for advertising purposes are prohibited in Berlin. Their place is taken by pillars or columns erected at street corners.

These columns, which are usually of wood and iron, are about 12 feet high and 3 feet in diameter. Built at the edge of the sidewalk, they form a conspicuous feature of street life in that city.

It is interesting to note, says the Circle, that the matter displayed on these columns is more in the nature of reading notices than of pictures.

The privilege of erecting and using these advertising columns is awarded by the city to the highest bidder. According to the terms of the lease now in force, the city receives an annual rental of about \$35,200, but cannot grant a similar privilege to any one else. The life of the lease is ten years.

The price which the successful bidder may charge for space is regulated by the Berlin authorities, and from this it fills with distilled water the fruit on the tree, for the milk so-called in the cocoon is practically drinking water, with very little other matter. And so in some places the cocoon supplies all the fresh water obtainable as it may be well the food—surely a wonderful and beneficent tree.

Coming back to the general subject, we find that the manufactured products of this wonderful tree are now in common use throughout the civilized world. To bring it right close it may be that when you go home to-night you will wipe the mud off your shoes on a doormat made of its fibre, and if you should take a nap before dinner you will lie down, it may be, on a lounge whose stuffing contains more or less of the same material.

The oil which you dress your salad may be cocoon oil, and for dessert you might find scrubbing brushes made of

ONE OF NATURE'S WONDERS

THIS, SURE ENOUGH, IS THE COCONUT TREE.

Food, Drink and Shelter It Has Long Provided for Dwellers by Fringe Seas, as It Now Supplies Them of Utility and of Luxury for All the World Besides.

"A wonder for sure is the cocoon tree," said a man familiar with the tree, its fruit and its manufactured products. "Its native home is India, from which originally its seed was carried by ocean currents to islands of the sea and to more or less distant mainland, whence by other currents or perhaps by the hands of man it was carried on still further until the cocoon tree had come to be found in tropical and subtropical climes all around the globe."

"The cocoon thrives best in lands along the margin of the sea; it likes the salt water. Plant a cocoon back of a fence or a stone wall and it will grow up straight until it has come to the height of the fence, but above that it will incline toward the water. If it is planted farther inland they put a block of salt under it."

"The seed is the cocoon itself, which as you know is encased, as it grows on the tree, in an elongated fibre filled husk with a hard, smooth outer surface. Cocoonuts dropping from the tree into the sea and then floating away fast spread the tree over the earth."

"Having found suitable judgment the nut sends up out of one of the three eyes to the top of the tree the eye familiar to us as we commonly see the cocoon in its spherical form divested of its outer husk—through one of these eyes it sends up a sprout which works its way through and out of the husk, this being the start of the tree. As the young tree grows the husk disintegrates and rots away."

"Cocoon trees attain a height of from twenty to eighty feet, according to situation and circumstances. The tree begins to bear fruit at about eight years of age. Its life is about 120 years, its yield in bearing about a hundred nuts annually, and an interesting fact is that the nuts drop from the tree at night."

"In many places in which it is found the tree, with its fruit, is indispensable to the wellbeing and it may be to the existence of the native human dwellers. The outer bark of the tree supplies a material which may be used for the purposes of clothing; the solid part of the tree trunk may be used for the framing and the tree's leaves for the covering of shelters, while the tree's fruit supplies food and the fibres of the husk a material for fishing lines."

"In many places where the cocoon tree thrives fish and cocoonuts form the only food supplies of the natives, and in distant isolated salt water surrounded islands or cays the cocoon may be their only source of supply of fresh water. The cocoon tree is practically hollow inside, and through this porous interior, almost as freely as it could be pumped up through a pump log, it draws up water for its own sustenance and growth, and from this it fills with distilled water the fruit on the tree, for the milk so-called in the cocoon is practically drinking water, with very little other matter. And so in some places the cocoon supplies all the fresh water obtainable as it may be well the food—surely a wonderful and beneficent tree."

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thicker to spend the week end. The villa has the double advantage of shady woods and a sandy beach where the little Prince Humbert enjoys wading in the water which ripples on the shore.

Princess Yolanda, the eldest child, has inherited the dark hair and large brown eyes of her mother and gives promise of great beauty; while Mafalda, her sister, is of a quieter type. The jolliest little fellow in the world is the Crown Prince Umberto, Prince of Piedmont and not of Rome, as everybody expected he would be called.

It is said that before the Prince was born the King was advised by his Ministers to give the birth place to the Quirinal and to give the title of Prince of Rome to the future King of Italy. The advice was entirely ignored.

Unlike the two other children the boy

was born at Raconigi in Piedmont, the country seat of the kings of Sardinia, and on him was bestowed the title of his ancestors in use before Rome became the capital of united Italy. It was said at the time that as both the King and the Queen are superstitious they refrained from using a title once borne by the unlucky son of Napoleon I., but very probably the real reason was a desire to respect the susceptibilities of the Pope, the dispossessed Prince of Rome, as the spiritual father of the Emperor. Giovanna is essentially a family name of the House of Savoy.

The new baby, who is said to be strong and healthy, is to be called Giovanna, with the addition of Romana as a second name to recall the fact that she was born in the Eternal City. Her name is essentially a family name of the House of Savoy.

Among the members who bore the name one attempted to poison her father in order to gain control of the duchy, but failed and retired to Paris, where she died in 1844. Another, the daughter of Louis XI, of France and Margaret of Savoy, was canonized for her saintly life. The new Princess is named after the latter.

Light Horse Harry spent part of his boyhood in Alexandria. It was his mother, then Lucy Grymes, to whom the youthful and susceptible Washington referred in his early letters as the "Lowland Beauty."

The very names of the streets smack of colonial days. King street is the main thoroughfare. Crossing it are the streets of Princess, Duke, Pitt, Cameron, St. Asaph, Fairfax and so on. One street had its name changed to Washington, another to Columbia, but these concessions to the new order of things make the older names only the most striking.

It was in Alexandria, too, that the Marshall House stood when the war broke out. And it was in its stairway that Ellsworth was shot as he came down from the roof and fell standing in the doorway with his tragic end.

The Marshall House no longer stands. It was burned several years ago, only one of its walls being left standing. That wall is now incorporated in a very commonplace store building.

But next to the "Hessians," which nobody can ignore, and the associations with Washington, which are all pervading, the most fascinating thing in Alexandria is the Female Stranger, a name which is familiar to all who have been in the city.

Of this enormous importation of cocoonuts by far the greater proportion goes to the manufacture of prepared cocoon for domestic and other cooking uses. Formerly the housewife who wanted to cook for her family or for a party would break the cocoon with a hatchet, and then they'd eat the meat, as children still do.

"The number of the cocoonuts imported for such an other retail demand is considerable, but still is a drop in the bucket to the number now imported for manufacturing uses."

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"In many places in which it is found the tree, with its fruit, is indispensable to the wellbeing and it may be to the existence of the native human dwellers. The outer bark of the tree supplies a material which may be used for the purposes of clothing; the solid part of the tree trunk may be used for the framing and the tree's leaves for the covering of shelters, while the tree's fruit supplies food and the fibres of the husk a material for fishing lines."

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QUAINT OLD ALEXANDRIA.

Its Numerous Cobblestones, Old Houses and Mystery of the "Female Stranger."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—The biggest cobblestones in this country are those with which the streets of Alexandria, Va., have been paved ever since George Washington got tired of getting mired in their red mud. Some of these stones are so big you couldn't put more than two of them in a bushel basket, and all of them are of dimensions which make the ordinary cobblestones look like a homoeopathic pill.

They call these whopping stones in Alexandria, because they were laid by the Hessian prisoners under Washington's direction. Blocks and blocks of this paving still remain.

In fact, it is only within a few years that any of it was replaced. Even now there are only three or four streets from which the "Hessians" have been banished. As a natural consequence, driving in Alexandria is not a popular diversion. An occasional vehicle may be seen crawling cautiously along; but no amount of caution can save its occupants from bouncing about like corn in a popper.

The horses shrewdly traverse the ruts which have been worn in the streets by more than a hundred years of chattering wheels. But even these worn ruts are as rough as if they came from a stone age which had had the smallpox.

The visitor to Alexandria says blithely: "Oh, what a pity to take up these picturesque old stones!"

But the visitor comes to town by the trolley and leaves the same way. The Alexandrians who have to stay there and who don't care to choose always between going afoot or being bounced by them, think they have enough picturesque antiquities without hanging on to the "Hessians."

They certainly have a delightful old town. It is half way between Washington and Mount Vernon and was the home town of the first President.

In one of the old houses which still stand he conferred with Gen. Braddock long before the Revolution. He came to balls in Alexandria, was a member of its fire company and presented to it the finest fire engine he could get—imported it (by ox team) from Philadelphia in 1774.

He was first master of its Masonic lodge, and the chair he occupied at lodge meetings is still used by succeeding masters. He had a pew in Christ Church, which pew remains as it was in his day, though all the others have been altered.

Across the aisle from the Washington pew is the one where Robert E. Lee used to sit. Not far from the church is the queer old academy where Lee went to school. Near it are two houses in which he lived as a boy.

There are interesting old houses at every turn. Here is the one where Dr. Dick, physician to Washington, lived, and where he was first visited by his distinguished friend. Here is the house where Lafayette was entertained.

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WANT TO KNOW SOMETHING?

Want to Write a Paper or to Make a Speech?

Here's a Government Bureau Which Will Put You on the Track of Almost Any Information and Does It for Nothing—Fetches Thousands of Inquiries a Year.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—Opening its own of the corridors of the Congressional Library there is a wide door over which the following inscription might well be placed: "National Bureau of Information." If there is anything you want very much to know, write to the man behind that door.

Pretty soon you will receive a neat typewritten note telling you what books have been published on the subject of your inquiry. He may even answer the question outright.

In view of the fact that the man and his assistants are already besieged with people who want to know things, it may not be a good turn to them if the news of their helpfulness is passed along. But the work they do is so astonishing that it simply demands description.

The man behind the door is A. P. C. Griffin, and his title is as long as his name. He is chief of the division of bibliography.

Though his name and his title are long, his memory is longer still. Tax Sten reporter asked him offhand for the best authority on half a dozen absurdly incongruous topics. It was furnished as promptly as if Mr. Griffin had been a slot machine in obscure information.

When the reporter marvelled Mr. Griffin dug up a list, a partial list, of the topics on which the American people have hungered the past year for information. These inquiries come from every nook and corner of the land.

Writers, lawyers, politicians, lecturers, editors, teachers, club women, students, merchants, people of all occupations and of all conditions, use the library for information on all probable subjects and, as it seems, on a good many of those which seem improbable. Turning over a few letters on the chief's desk there was found this group of inquiries: for sources of information about the slave insurrection in Santo Domingo in 1791-1793; for the names of firms engaged in the manufacture of excelsior in certain States; for material to assist in the preparation of a biographical sketch; for information on the best way of catching mink.

The last request was from a Southern trapper and was answered specifically, although it is not strictly in line with the work of the bureau. Of course, the excelsior inquiry was turned down. The library does not distribute information so much as it tells where to find it.

These inquiries come by the thousand. About 10,000 of them came last year by mail, and these formed only a small part of the total.

Of course the library is primarily to serve the members of Congress, and while that body is in session Mr. Griffin and his assistants are constantly digging up spots and authorities for use in debate in the committee room. At all times of the year, but especially during the session of Congress, the division of bibliography is constantly called upon not only by letter but by telephone and personal application for literary steering.

Every bit of this service is freely given. It is the right of every American with a serious purpose behind the request to ask the aid of the library in getting facts upon any subject.

We may be forgiven if we prod the national bird into giving at least a mild screech of pride, for this is the only country where such aid is given. And the library at Washington is the only one in America where the country at large is served in this undiscriminating way.

For instance, among hundreds of cases take these few: To one of the Justices of Rhode Island was furnished a memorandum on land tenure in East Greenwich. A member of the Virginia Legislature sent an inquiry for matter ranging from the attitude of Massachusetts on Nullification to the anti-slavery views held by Southerners before the war. The material was at once assembled for him.

The Belgian Minister applied for material on American railways. Dr. Lyman Abbott got information about education in the South. A member of the State Banking Commission of Rhode Island was supplied with references on the banking laws of this and of other countries. As for the subjects upon which the people at large consult the library their number is astonishing. Here are a few of them:

Arcylyene gas, Russell A. Alger, anti-aircraft vehicles, Angora goats, artistic iron work, assaying, balance of trade, Balzac, bee keeping, black letter type, blue books, Boston tea party, Barbara Fritchie, cremation, church liturgy, care of dogs, casting of lots, construction of passenger cars, conversation of Napoleon III, at Chislehurst, costumes worn in California in 1833, eagle stones, empirical formulae, export duties, feeble minded children, fossil horses, German university life, gnomes, great men who were not studious in youth, gifts of Mr. Carnegie, incrustation on boilers, home missions, Japanese gardens, Jewish fiction, kites, Lemuel Roberts, manufacturers of plumb, Mormon rebellion, monuments of the Abraham Lincoln, manufacture of shoes, Napoleon's last words, moonshiners, petrified forests, ostrich farming, partial payments, personal appearance of George Washington, oyster culture, poetry of civil war, port charges, prominent faces of America, ready reckoners.

Some inquiries are made so often that the library has printed lists of books, of articles and of references on the subjects dealt with. For instance, there are printed lists relating to child labor, to Government regulation of insurance, to railroads, to trusts, to ship subsidies, to tariffs of foreign countries, to municipal ownership.

Thousands of copies of these lists have been printed in order to supply the demand for them. In addition the library has furnished typewritten copies of about 200 other lists when in demand. If all this work doesn't entitle the division of bibliography to be called a national bureau of information, then there's no use trying.

FOOTBALL AND SCHOLARSHIP. Classes Boom at Minnesota When the Team Brings Home a Scap.

IF Dr. Butler of Columbia thought the same way as Prof. Melom of the Spanish department at the University of Minnesota football team would be restored at Columbia. The Minnesota man believes that football is most important to the quality of study in the university.

Just