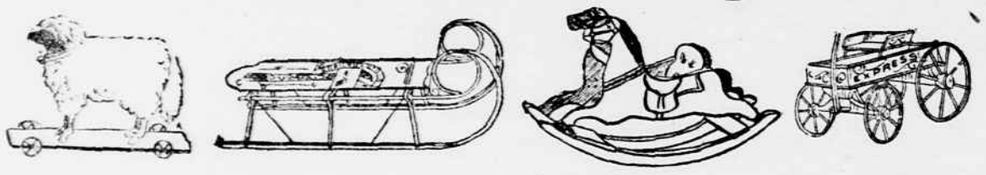
Toys Almost Given Away

TONIGHT

(Until 10 O'Clock)

The Palais Royal



Commencing at 5 o'clock this evening and until 10 o'clock tonight all toys and games are to be almost given away. Tables full of them at 3c, 5c, 10c and 25c for choice. Dimes shall do the duty of dollars tonight, if toys or games are purchased.

39c for 50c Dolls. **16c** for 25c Dolls. **2c** for 10c Books.

Dolls' Outfits at 33 per cent discount—one-third off marked prices. Note that the Toy Books at 2c are filled with artistically colored illustrations. These on first floor. Go to third floor for Children's Fur Scarfs and Muffs at 50c per set, reduced from $1.

Men's and Ladies' Neckwear.

79c For $1 Scarfs. **39c** For 50c Scarfs. **18c** For 25c Scarfs.

☞ Specially good values at the original prices. Note that English Squares, with embroidered ends, are among the 50c lot—reduced to 39c for choice. And 79c will secure the men's furnishing store $1.25 Neckwear.

Furniture At 25 Per Cent Discount.

Each piece has the price attached in plain figures. Deduct one-fourth tonight.

$2.50 to $20 are the prices marked on the Rockers, and no establishment can show a better variety. Everything from the dainty little Rocker for my lady to the ponderous one for his lordship's comfort.

Deduct one-fourth from the prices quoted below—and call as soon as possible.

$4.98 for ordinary Book Cases, $3.50 to $8.50 for Revolving Book Cases. $14 to $19 for China Closets. $9 for Bamboo and $17.50 for Gilt Tete-a-tete. $8.50 for Venetian Chairs and Rockers. $16 for the Settee. $9 for Flemish Tables and Chairs. $18 for the Settee.

25 Per Cent Discount.

"Colonial Gold" and Florentine Brass Goods. The Florentine Photo Frames are from miniature to cabinet size—48c to $1.50 each. The "Colonial Gold" pieces comprise Toilet Articles, Handkerchief, Glove and Jewel Boxes, Mirrors, Cigar Jars, Card Receivers, etc. Prices range from $1.48 to $25 apiece—less one-quarter deducted. See glass cases full of these goods near G st. entrance.

20 Per Cent Discount.

One-fifth off the price marked on any piece of Bric-a-Brac at $1.25 to $15, and all Brass Candelabra, Sconces, Mirrors, etc. Don't forget the Basement Floor for these. And for Parlor Lamps and Onyx Tables at 25 per cent discount.

On Third Floor.

$1.79 for $3.98 Waists.

Those All-wool French Flannel and Mohair Waists. Last of various styles at $1.79 for choice.

84c for $1 Skirts.

Choice of the Mercerized Silk and Satin Petticoats, black and colors. Lined and unlined.

On Third Floor.

16c for 19c Aprons.

Nurses', Maids' and Waitresses' Christmas Aprons of superior materials and finish. Many are good value at 25c.

12c for 15c Aprons.

The Palais Royal 15c Holiday Aprons are most favorably quoted. 12c for the first time tonight.

Second Floor for These Bargains.

First—The best of Eiderdown Comforts covered with rich silks—at $7.50 instead of $12. Second—Those Comforts looking very much like the much more expensive—at $1.29 instead of $1.59. Third—The Hemstitched Damask Table Sets, consisting of large cover and one dozen napkins, at $5.25 instead of $7.50 set.

Feather Boas.

$7.98 instead of $10 for those best Black Ostrich Feather Boas, 45 inches long.

Dress Patterns.

$3.25 instead of $5 for those Dress Patterns of All-wool Tailor Suitings, in box with Xmas Card.

19c for Choice.

Last of various lots of 25c to 50c Pocket Books are to be thrown on a big bargain table tonight at only 19c for choice.

49c for Choice.

In this combination will be leather goods of all kinds, many $1 Pocket Books in the lot.

98c for Choice.

The Pocket Books and Card Cases left over from $1.25, $1.50 and $1.75 lots are to be gathered together at only 98c for choice.

20 Per Cent Off.

One-fifth off the price marked on any Traveling Bag, Dress Suit Case, etc. Go to basement floor for these.

Palais Royal, A. Lisner, G & 11th Sts.

TWO MONTHS OF WAR

England Has Reason to Be Dissatisfied With the Results.

GATACRE USED AS A SCAPEGOAT

Belief That the Struggle Will Be Long and Desperate.

NOT A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Special Correspondence of The Evening Star.

LONDON, December 13, 1899.

The news from South Africa this week is most grave as far as British interests are concerned. Gen. Gatacre's defeat, quickly followed by Lord Methuen's repulse, has made people begin to think that the "walk-over" to Pretoria is not to be so easy after all. British confidence in British methods is beginning to waver even in the most jingoistic organs, like the Daily Mail, Evening News and several of the provincial papers. I well remember that during the war between the United States and Spain the English newspapers day after day referred to the undisciplined American army and feared that it would not cut a good figure when it met the Spanish troops. Nearly every battle that was won by the Americans was a fluke and military critics could not understand how men who disregarded all the rules of the game could win battles. Of course, I refer almost strictly to military criticism of our forces. The general public sympathized with the United States and wanted to see Spain whipped, but it certainly grieved the military men of the empire to see Americans working so irregularly at the business in hand. English soldiers, with their discipline and training, are now meeting an enemy who totally disregard war rules and are even so unsoldier-like as to hide behind rocks, etc., and not stand out in the open. They also fortify hills and high places and wait for attack. This grieves the British soldiers and they do not think the Boer fights fair. The reports from the front often make pitiful reading, as in nearly every battle thus far fought the British have been obliged to make frontal attacks at great risk upon an enemy strongly intrenched and covered. I have no doubt that British losses up to date are greater than those of the Boers, though the latter have lost heavily in some places. Overconfidence on the British side and underestimation of their enemy seem not to be exhausted yet, and engagements are reported from time to time which show that the undisciplined Boers have the best of a situation where cunning and hustling make training of little effect. There is much depression here over the last two defeats, and I fear that this Christmas must be a sad one for many people in Great Britain. The latest figures total up to about 600 killed 2,000 prisoners and over 2,000 wounded on the British side. These are the casualties of only two months of war!

Criticisms of Gatacre.

The feeling against Sir William Gatacre is acute, and it is difficult to find any one to defend him, except, curiously enough, radicals. He is condemned even at the service clubs, where they are not wont to speak unadvisedly against a general who has been unfortunate. The mildest I hear is the suggestion to withhold judgment. Radicals do not blame the general merely that they may have a shot at the government.

Nothing can be immediately done to improve the situation in the Stormberg district, but as many troops as are available will be sent on from the Cape to reinforce General Gatacre. The transport of the 6th Division from England will be quickened as much as possible, but it has not at present been decided to send out the 7th Division. It will be mobilized at Aldershot in readiness, but will not be sent unless the commander-in-chief asks for it. Under any circumstances, there would be collected at Aldershot the materials for a full division, and it is going but one step further to mobilize that division.

Doomed to Disappointment.

I hear that the queen was deeply grieved at the defeat sustained by Gatacre's force, and the special inquiry her majesty made at the war office conveyed a sense of her feelings on the subject. It is said that Lord Wolseley is also very much irritated at the disaster; and, in short, both at the Horse Guards and the war office there is anxiety and a sense of depression. The official mind is looking forward to the end of the week, on the assumption that on or about Friday next would be the decisive day in the Natal campaign. It is believed that Sir Redvers Buller has already crossed the Tugela river, and that his grand strategic movement, whatever it may be, is in full operation. A clue is apparently afforded by a Boer report that the bridge at Washbank, on the railway line from Ladysmith to Dundee and Laings Nek, had been destroyed. If that be true, it would appear that a British force has already worked its way to the rear of the Boer position, and is destroying the railway on the Boer line of retreat. This would be a most disastrous thing for the Boers. Even if they got away themselves they would be unable to carry off their guns and supplies.

Before Sir Redvers Buller left England he remarked in his quiet, grim way: "Of course, the Boers will cut the telegraph; and if they do not, I will." The saying helps us to understand the sagacious silence that has fallen over the movements of the army under the direct command of Sir Redvers himself. We have nothing from Natal except messages from Ladysmith, or unimportant observations as to the building of the bridge at Frere, which has proved so admirable an excuse for Sir Redvers, while he tarried for that which is to come. His silences are eloquent. His ideal intelligence department is one which gives no intelligence except to himself, and which, before the fighting, at any rate, will not allow a rival intelligence department to cater for the public.

British Prisoners.

General Gatacre's report refers to over 600 troops as "missing." From the Pretoria telegram there appears to be no manner of doubt that the missing troops have gone to join their comrades at Pretoria, and the reflection that something like 2,000 British soldiers will spend their Christmas as prisoners of war at the Boer capital is not a pleasant one for people here, many of whom not long since fully expected that the British flag would be over Pretoria by Christmas. It is true that the British have taken a certain number of prisoners, but the number is comparatively small, and we have still absolutely no means of knowing what are the Boers' casualties in killed and wounded. What is quite certain is that they are minimized in the Boer official reports, and it is practically equally certain that the enemy's losses are overestimated on the English side. From the description sent home by the correspondents of Lord Methuen's attack on the Boer position north of the Modder river, with lyddite shells we should have been fairly justified in assuming that great injury had been inflicted on the Boers, but native runners now report that the total Boer loss was one man killed and two wounded. And the most astonishing feature of the situation is that not at one point only, but at every point of the field of operations, the Boers are found to be in much greater strength than we had been led to believe. The original estimate of the Boer strength, has, of course, long been abandoned, and we have no material for making a trustworthy calculation, but it is significant that the estimates which are bandied about grow every day larger and larger.

Gatacre's Methods.

Lord Durham has made a fierce attack on General Gatacre, which is condemned on all sides. He says he overworks his men and ought not to have been given an independent command. As Lord Durham founded a portion of his criticism on the qualities said to have been displayed by General Gatacre in the Soudan, it is of some interest to see what Mr. Winston Churchill has to say of him in that campaign in his brilliant book on "The River War." Mr. Churchill describes the general as "a spare, middle-sized man of great physical strength and energy, of marked capacity and unquestioned courage, but disturbed by a restless irritation, to which even the most inordinate activity afforded little relief, and which often left him the exhausted victim of his own vitality." He proceeds: "Officers and men were compelled to sleep in their boots and the rest of the troops was disturbed by frequent night alarms. Regular route marching twice a week and much field firing busily occupied the brigade, while every conceivable formation to resist a dervish attack was assiduously practiced. The excessive enthusiasm of the general may have provoked some dissatisfaction among the soldiers, but it is impossible to deny that, while discipline and health were successfully maintained, the general efficiency was greatly increased." The general's well-known name in the army is "Old Backacher."

A Desperate Struggle.

There is a growing feeling that the result of the war so far has not been to add to British reputation as a military power, though it has unquestionably maintained, if it has not enhanced, the glory of the British infantry as a fighting force. No doubt a decisive victory in Natal, followed by the relief of Ladysmith, or on the western frontier, followed by the relief of Kimberley, would do much to remove this feeling, which appears to rest not so much upon any detailed military criticism as on the broad consideration that two months after the outbreak of war British troops were still hemmed in on British territory by the enemy, and that they have not yet been able along any one of the main lines of operation to repel the invasion. There are still some sanguine people who say that the republics will collapse suddenly as soon as the position is reversed and British troops are advancing on Boer territory, but I believe that the number of these sanguine ones is decreasing, and that many who inclined to take a short view of the duration of the war are now convinced that we have a grim and a desperate struggle before us before peace is restored.

Charge Grave Mistakes.

The Morning Post has a strong leader this morning accusing the government of making grave mistakes thus far in the conduct of the war, and predicts that the disaffected Dutchmen in Cape Colony will rise in rebellion if stronger measures are not taken to quickly conquer the republics. The military critic in the same paper says, with reference to Gatacre's defeat: "The most serious results of his defeat would be the spread of disaffection along the border and speedy additions to the Boer forces. The force which was holding Stormberg is reported to have been 6,000 strong, and it would not be surprising if its recent victory were worth another 2,000 or 3,000 to it. The Dutchman of the border is the wilest of beings, and there were probably large numbers of them waiting for the results of the first action to make up their minds whether to join the Boer forces or not. A victory so spectacularly complete will probably prove sufficient to win them over to the enemy, and the defensive attitude now forced on General Gatacre will not improve the situation. Since the day when the first announcement was made of the government's plans in stamping out the rebellion in South Africa we have steadfastly urged the necessity for more men. At the time when an army corps was judged extravagantly large for the purpose in hand we predicted that it would not be sufficient. That was called 'pessimism,' but it proved to be a fact. We urged a month ago that a second army corps should be sent, and that large reinforcements of cavalry and horse artillery should be dispatched at once. Slowly and grudgingly a fifth and a sixth division have been put in motion, but the fifth will arrive too late to render effective help in the present crisis, and there seems no prospect of another cavalry division, which is more needed at present in South Africa than double its number of infantry."

Germany's Ambitions.

The peace conference is bearing fruit already. Prince Hohenlohe, the imperial chancellor, announced to the reichstag at Berlin yesterday that it was necessary for Germany to double the number of her battle ships. Prince Hohenlohe's statement was brief, but Count von Buelow, the German foreign minister, enlarged upon it at some length. He announced that Germany could not allow any country to "pass to the order of the day" and leave Germany out of account. This was evidently taken by part of the assembly as a direct hit at France; and Count von Buelow immediately began to explain that the settlement of outstanding colonial questions with France had always been comparatively easy. But Germany was on good terms with Russia also. Its relations with Great Britain were cordial; President McKinley had gone out of his way to be civil; while, as for Austria and Italy, they were bound to Germany with the closest of ties. Since all these powers were friendly, therefore, it was urgently necessary for Germany to increase her naval strength in order that she might be secure against attack. The logic of this inference is not apparent on the face of it; but I have no doubt it is quite clear to German statesmen. In view of the interest which Germany is rapidly acquiring in China and Asia Minor, an increase in the German navy is not altogether advantageous to Great Britain. At the same time, just because Germany is so friendly, England will do well to copy her example and add a few more battle ships to her little lot, and she probably will, as this country cannot afford to let any continental navy approach hers in size.

Stories on Journalists.

The current number of the Cornhill has some good stories about newspaper writers. One story told is of a leader writer, who, being hard pressed for "copy" by the printer's "devil," cut out a leader from the day's Times, pasted it on a sheet of paper, and, after merely writing above it the introductory sentence "What does the Times mean by this?" passed it on to the printers as his contribution to the leading columns of his own journal. Another story tells how the late Mr. Robert Wallace, M. P., at one time editor of the Scotsman, was asked early in his career to furnish a newspaper in the north of Scotland with an article on some light theological subject. He wrote one on "The Relations Between the Presbyterian Churches and Modern Thought." When set up the article made forty columns, and it became a puzzle to editor and printer how to get rid of it. They began by using it in pieces, and whenever the printer said to the editor, "We've got no leader," the reply was: "Eh, mon, just sneck off about a column and a quarter of Wallace.' In this way the contribution was being used, first working down from the beginning, then upward from the end. And, as the story goes, 'they are at it still.'"

Christmas Pantomimes.

Preparations for the Christmas pantomimes at the London theaters are now sufficiently well advanced to allow of a good general idea being formed of their character. The prevailing note of the productions at the two leading houses, where "annuals" are on the stocks—Drury Lane and the Lyceum—is likely to be simplicity and picturesqueness. Very wisely, the management in both instances has elected to keep the musical hall element in proper subordination and give patrons an entertainment very much after the old-fashioned style. At Drury Lane, where "Jack and the Beanstalk" is to be played, much will be made of a giant Kruger, who will come to an untimely end in a great scene in which military representatives of the colonies will play a conspicuous part. Patriotism, indeed, will be the keynote of all the pantomimes this season, and there will be very few instances in which the authors do not contrive to bring their characters at some period of the action into South Africa.

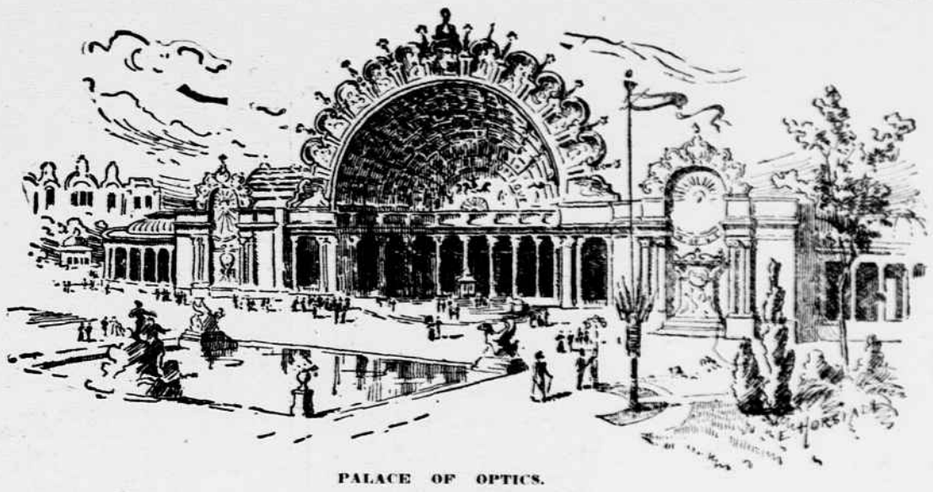
L. H. MOORE.

The Jigger in Uganda.

From Blackwood.

Several sepoys were suffering from that African pest, the "jigger," whose scientific name of Pulex penetrans describes him and his habits concisely and well. He is an exact reproduction in miniature of the common flea (Pulex irritans), but instead of merely inflicting a comparatively innocuous bite, he burrows under the skin, close to the toe nails for preference, and then proceeds to propagate the species. Unless he is very carefully removed the sores cause the most intense irritation, and may lay a man up completely. The usual method of removing him is to widen the hole in which he has entered and then extract him, intact if possible, with a needle, care being taken that no eggs or young are left behind; the place should then be dressed to prevent festering. It is not advisable to march much after removing jiggers, but, unfortunately, it is frequently unavoidable.

I may mention that Lieut. Col. Macdonald once told me that during his first visit to Uganda some natives caught a leopard in one of the banana plantations, whose feet were so thoroughly diseased from jiggers that he was quite unable to move or to defend himself.



PALACE OF OPTICS.

PALACE OF OPTICS

One of the Remarkable Buildings of the Paris Exposition.

TO CONTAIN THE GREAT TELESCOPE

Reproductions of Women's Costumes for Centuries Back

WITH HISTORIC ACCURACY

Special Correspondence of The Evening Star.

PARIS, December 16, 1899.

A trip to Paris in 1900 will be a trip to the moon.

Visitors will not actually set foot on our satellite, but to all intents and purposes they will get over the 249,000 miles of intervening ether, and will stop short of making a landing only by about a hundred miles. This is much nearer than the most persevering arctic explorer has ever come to the north pole.

Just think of it—the moon only 100 miles away. You can see almost that far from the top of the Eiffel tower, and a much greater distance from the summits of the Alps, or from the top of your own Pike's Peak.

And how will this marvelous journey be accomplished? Almost instantaneously, without the fatigue of travel, and at a nominal cost. You simply sit at your ease in the comfortable auditorium of the Palace of Optics while a mammoth mirror takes the image of the moon from the sky, shoots the reflection through a steel tube 197 feet long, terminating with the biggest lens ever made, and projects a perfect picture of fair Luna on a mammoth screen, magnified 10,000 times. In this way the marveling spectators can inspect, admire and study the "living picture" of the moon, just as they would see the orb of night herself were she only as distant as New York from Philadelphia, instead of 250,000 miles away.

The $200,000 Telescope.

Do you want to know more about this wonderful telescope that M. Gauthier is building, and the Palace of Optics in which it will be housed? It is not a movable affair, like the telescopes you see on the street corners, which for 5 cents will show you the star of the evening looking as big as a goose egg, but rather a mammoth cast steel tube weighing with its attachments 212,000 pounds, and immovably fixed on eight stone columns resting on bed rock, so that none of the jars which the building may receive will interfere with its work. Essentially, it consists of four parts—the gigantic mirror which takes the reflection of the portion of the sky under examination, the great steel tube, the mammoth lens and the condenser, which brings the scattering rays of light sufficiently together to form a distinct image on the screen. The cost of this telescope and the building in which it is placed will be about $280,000.

Possible Lunar Sights.

Astronomers tell us that they have learned by methods that pass the understanding of the unscientific mind that our satellite is a dead and frozen world, without atmosphere, devoid of any form of life, and seemingly without apparent purpose in the economy of the universe, except to hang around in the sky at night and reflect upon us enough of the sun's rays to make us independent of the gas and electric light companies, a part of the time, at least. Should this conjecture or discovery prove to be wrong, and should there be mighty armies moving about on the surface of the moon, and ocean steamers as large as our own sailing across its seas, and lunar expositions this telescope will tell us a great deal about them, for they will be plainly visible. Another thing that will be accomplished by this instrument will be to take pictures of the stars enlarged 10,000 times, so that, with the aid of the microscope, scientists can examine them more in detail. Moreover, it will penetrate further into the depths of celestial space than any instrument made hitherto, and will supply much new information concerning the splendors of our planetary system.

A 10,000-Pound Mirror.

Perhaps you would like to know something about the mirror. It is no common piece of glass showing an image more or less distorted, but an immense circular mass of the finest glass, which, with its mountings, weigh about 10,000 pounds—a wonder in itself. For astronomical purposes a mirror with an irregular surface is utterly useless, so the problem was presented of polishing this great crystal mass more than six feet in diameter so as to produce an absolute plane. It took special machinery to do it. It cost a lot of money and a lot of time (more than eight months), but the result is a surface so scientifically accurate and so delicate that the slightest variation in temperature at different points would affect it seriously. It is said that if one were to approach his hand close to the glass the warmth emitted would cause the surface to swell, and the infinitesmal deformation thus brought about would seriously interfere with the objects reflected. Such is astronomy, and such the precision of the instruments of science.

The Palace of Optics.

The Palace of Optics will be found in the Champs de Mars, between the Eiffel Tower and the Palace of Education. It will cover 90,000 square feet. The architect, M. Robin, has erected a curious building, the facade of which is a semi-cupola, above which runs a decorative piece of staff lace work, on which the well-known sculptor, M. Theunissen, has sculpted the twelve signs of the zodiac. The cupola is supported by Persian columns, and on either side of this main facade are solid walls, on which are numerous astronomical and optical designs.

In the interior of the Palace of Optics, in addition to the telescope chamber, is a small optical exhibition room and some curious optical illusions.

Among the so-called "attractions" of the exposition now in the course of preparation one of the most artistic and refined will be the gorgeous display of feminine apparel in the Palace of Costume.

Twenty Centuries of Dress.

The historical Costume Palace will cost nearly $2,000,000. It will cover a large tract of ground to the east of the Eiffel Tower, and will occupy the center of beautiful gardens. The edifice itself will be in the Louis XV style of architecture, with a monumental entrance and a scheme of adornment typifying the lighter side of fashion, past and to come. It is three years now since the architects, sculptors, decorators, dressmakers and embroiderers first set to work preparing the gems of which this palace is the fitting casket. The artists and artisans have occupied for this purpose a huge atelier in the Latin quarter, modeling all their figures from life. The series will comprise reproductions of costumes from the time of the Gauls down to the year 1900. These will be shown in a series of tableaux representing historical scenes in which the principal figures are women, all dressed with historical exactness. First we will see the Gauls in their rustic dwellings gazing with stupefaction at the Roman army approaching in the distance. Close by will be Marie of Burgundy costumed in the fashion of her period, and Blanche of Castile in a Gothic interior and mythical aspect. After the mediaeval times comes the renaissance, with its brilliant luxury and the splendor of Italian art. The sixteenth century will have a place of honor, with Catharine de Medici in elegant recherche attire, paying a visit to the famous astrologer, Ruggieri. Another scene represented will be the famous field of "Cloth of Gold," which took place between the sovereigns of England and France. After that visitors will be introduced to Henry IV and his mistress—the beautiful Gabrielle.

Frederic Mayer

EXPANSION AND PEACE.

Some Things That Are Much Worse Than War.

Gov. Roosevelt, in the Independent.

Peace is a great good; and doubly harmful, therefore, is the attitude of those who advocate it in terms that would make it synonymous with selfish and cowardly shrinking from warning against the existence of evil. The wisest and most far-seeing champions of peace will ever remember that, in the first place, to be good it must be righteous—for unrighteous and cowardly peace may be worse than any war—and, in the second place, that it can often be obtained only at the cost of war. Let me take two illustrations:

The great blot upon European international morality in the closing decades of this century has been not a war, but the infamous peace kept by the joint action of the great powers while Turkey inflicted the last horrors of butchery, torture and outrage upon the men, women and children of despairing Armenia. War was avoided; peace was kept; but what a peace! Infinitely greater human misery was inflicted during this peace than in the late wars of Germany with France, of Russia with Turkey, and this misery fell, not on armed men, but upon defenseless women and children, upon the graybeard and the stripling no less than upon the head of the family; and it came not in the mere form of death or imprisonment, but of tortures upon men, and above all upon women, too horrible to relate—tortures of which it is too terrible even to think. Moreover, no good resulted from the bloodshed and misery. Often this is the case in a war, but often it is not the case.

Of course, our whole national history has been one of expansion. Under Washington and Adams we expanded westward to the Mississippi; under Jefferson we expanded across the continent to the mouth of the Columbia; under Monroe we expanded into Florida, and then into Texas and California; and finally, largely through the instrumentality of Seward, into Alaska; while under every administration the process of expansion in the great plains and the Rockies has continued with growing rapidity. While we had a frontier the chief feature of frontier life was the endless war between the settlers and the red men. Sometimes the immediate occasion for the war was to be found in the conduct of the whites and sometimes in that of the reds, but the ultimate cause was simply that we were in contact with a country held by savages or half-savages. Where we abut on Canada there is no danger of war, nor is there any danger where we abut on the well-settled regions of Mexico. But elsewhere war had to continue until we expanded over the country. Then it was succeeded at once by a peace which has remained unbroken to the present day. In North America, as elsewhere throughout the entire world, the expansion of a civilized nation has invariably meant the growth of the area in which peace is normal throughout the world.

The same will be true of the Philippines. If the men who have counseled national degradation, national dishonor, by urging us to leave the Philippines and put the Aguinaldan oligarchy in control of those islands could have their way, we should merely turn them over to rapine and bloodshed until some stronger, manlier power stepped in to do the task we had shown ourselves fearful of performing. But as it is, this country will keep the islands and will establish therein a stable and orderly government, so that one more fair spot of the world's surface shall have been snatched from the forces of darkness. Fundamentally the cause of expansion is the cause of peace.

It is only the warlike power of a civilized people that can give peace to the world. The Arab wrecked the civilization of the Mediterranean coasts; the Turk wrecked the civilization of southeastern Europe, and the Tartar desolated from China to Russia and to Persia, setting back the progress of the world for centuries; solely because the civilized nations opposed to them had lost the great fighting qualities, and, in becoming overpeaceful, had lost the power of keeping peace with a strong hand.

An Opinion.

From Puck.

Traveling acquaintance—"The farmers favor expansion, don't they?"

Uncle Josh—"Well, I'll tell ye; they're like most of the folks that has a large family of children—they don't want no more; but, when a new baby comes, they don't want no less."

It pays to read the want columns of The Star. Hundreds of situations are filled through them.

FERRETS.

A Professional Rat Catcher Tells About the Things They Do.

From the Indianapolis News.

"Weasels and ferrets," said a professional who will ply his vocation here for the next six months, "are about the same thing. The imported ferrets, trained to the business, are larger than the weasels, that is all. After I am through with rat-catching I use my ferrets to hunt rabbits out of brush piles, hay and strawstacks, which is a profitable business when rabbits are plenty. What you call rabbits we in England call hares.

"When a man once starts in as a professional rat-catcher and gets to understand training and working ferrets, there is such an attraction in the trade that he never willingly gives it up. It's a profitable business, without too much competition."

"Do the ferrets ever bite you?"

"It's a very careless and awkward man that gets bitten by a trained ferret. When one is bitten by an enraged ferret the bite is of a very severe character, painful and slow to heal."

As the rat-catcher talked, a six-months-old ferret, his firey little eyes gleaming like living gems, was crawling over his lap and trying to get in under his coat. "This fellow," said the rat-catcher, "is as gentle as a kitten, and likes to have his back rubbed and caressed as well as any cat you ever saw. When the ferret bites a rat's neck he knows exactly what he is doing, and his front teeth, cutting like razors, go right through the jugular.

"Of course, we generally muzzle them when we send them in after rats, and we always muzzle them when we send them in after rabbits. If their teeth were at liberty they would kill the first rat or rabbit they met, and would remain in the hole sucking its blood. When we put a ferret into a house after rats we stop up all holes at the outside of the house except one or two. Over these we place bags, and the ferrets, driving the game before them, run the rats into the bags. We keep the ferret without his ordinary meals before using him, and this makes him keener in his chase.

"It's mighty easy to spoil a ferret. After a young ferret has been badly bitten by a rat, as sometimes happens, you can't get him to go into a hole muzzled. But when a ferret is full-grown and has the skill and courage that he should have, he is a holy terror to rats, and is a valuable animal. I would not sell a well-trained ferret for $50. Such a ferret I should be willing to put in a pit with fifty rats, and he could in a short time kill every one of them. Rats are great fighters when they are cornered, but no other animal of the same size has as much courage as a ferret or weasel. In England the largest ferrets are called polecat ferrets, and are a cross of the two animals, which are much alike. In this country the word polecat is applied to the skunk, an entirely different animal. The word polecat is supposed to be an abbreviation of Polish cat, and the animal abounds all over Europe. The mink is much like the weasel, except that it is larger, and many depredations that are attributed to the weasel are committed by the mink. All these animals prowl by night, and they frequently go many miles in search of food, even coming into towns and the suburbs of cities."

Aubudon, who was a close student of nature, was delighted with the weasel, or American ferret. Its long, flexible body, its extraordinary length of neck, the closeness of its fur, its keenness of scent, its wonderful agility and quickness of movement all excited his admiration.

An American writer says: "The common weasel has sometimes been caught and carried off by large hawks and owls. Sorry is the experience of the captor in such cases. He has caught a tartar. The captive will bite into the sides of the enemy, so that both will fall to the ground, the bird mortally wounded and the weasel comparatively unhurt. The weasel's courage in defending itself when attacked by birds of prey is universally admitted; nor is it deficient in fierce opposition to dogs, and even men, when its nest is invaded by either. It usually kills for food, biting through the head into the brain with such expertness that its victim can scarcely utter a cry of pain. It usually eats the brain first; then the rest of the body follows. In pursuing mice, rats and moles, it follows them into their runs or holes. A weasel's proximity to a poultry yard is not to be desired. But in barns, hayricks and grain stacks it is decidedly advantageous, as it will exterminate or drive away rats and mice."

The weasel's characteristics are noted in two American sayings: "Catch a weasel asleep" and "Sooner trust a weasel with eggs." Stories are told that a weasel will watch a hen on the nest for an hour waiting for a freshly laid egg.

Cordovan Leather Boots.

From the Gentleman's Magazine.

At the court of Elizabeth the wide-topped Spanish boot—handsome, and, to our eyes, theatrical—became popular among the rival courtiers, each endeavoring to outvie the other in the queen's eyes. The most handsome and admired of all were made of white Cordova leather edged with costly lace and having gold spurs. Sometimes buff and red and much more rarely the now prevalent black leather was the material. Shoes for men seem to have gone out of fashion during the Stuart era, so far as the upper classes went. Your plain citizen always adhered to a more or less substantial shoe when at home, and seldom drew on boots save when on a journey—a terrible expedition, however short the distance, up to the middle of the last century. Thus, in Charles II's day Cowley, writing to Dr. Thomas Sprat from so near a place to London as Chertsey, says that he might very conveniently come thither "the way of Mampton town—lying there one night."

Couldn't Estimate Its Value!

Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart never fails. It relieves in 30 minutes, it cures. It is a beacon-light to lead you back to health. W. H. Musselman, of G. A. R., Weissport, Pa., says: "Two bottles of Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart entirely cured me of palpitation and smothering spells. Its value cannot be estimated. I feel like a new man." Sold by F. S. WILLIAMS, 9th and F sts.; EDMONDS & WILLIAMS, 3d and Pa. ave. 41