LIEUT. COM. MERRILL.

Returns From a Wonderful 3,000-Mile Inland Journey.

AS COMMISSIONER TO CHINA.

To Examine Into the Chinese Outrages on American Mission Stations—This His First Home Port.

Lieut. Commander J. S. Merrill, the executive officer of the Baltimore and a member of the commission of three appointed last fall by President Cleveland to investigate the Chinese riots which were directed against American missionaries in China at the close of the war between China and Japan, was in Seattle yesterday and was seen by a Post-Intelligencer reporter last night at his rooms in the Rainier-Grand. As the report of the commission was only recently completed at Shanghai, and the seal under which it was forwarded to the department of state at Washington City has not yet been broken, Lieut. Commander Merrill, who is the first member of the commission to touch American soil, brings the first news of the marvelous inland journey of 3,000 miles, which took the commission through the heart of China over a route not traversed since the days of the celebrated but somewhat apocryphal Marco Polo, 500 years ago.

All Americans will remember the troubles in China which led to the appointment of the commission, and the presence of British and American vessels in Chinese waters. Thrown into a state of turmoil and wild excitement by the war with Japan, the interior of China presented toward the latter part of September, 1895, a volcanic spectacle of fury against all foreigners. This feeling vented itself against the missionaries at many of the interior stations, not because they were missionaries, but because they were foreigners. Some of the British missionaries were killed, and the property of the mission stations, including several occupied by American missionaries, was torn to pieces by the infuriated mobs. This state of things finally led to the appointment of two commissions charged with making a thorough investigation of all the outrages. One of them was a joint commission appointed by the United States and England, the other an American commission, as insisted upon by Secretary Olney. As no Americans had been killed, the duty of the latter commission consisted mainly in traversing China by what is known as the Great North route, so as to reach the remote province of Szechuan, where several of the mob demonstrations against the mission stations occupied by Americans had occurred.

Make-Up of the Commission.

The commission as at first appointed consisted of S. P. Read, United States consul at Peking; F. D. Cheshire, secretary of the American legation at Peking, and Commander Barber, the naval attache at Peking. But almost immediately after the appointment, Commander Barber was taken ill, and Lieut. Commander Merrill was appointed to take his place. Prior to Lieut. Commander Merrill's appointment there was considerable delay in getting the commission under way, and the public was at that time impatient to know the cause. As explained by Lieut. Commander Merrill last night, the reason was precisely that stated at the time in the Washington City dispatches to the Post-Intelligencer. The delay arose from the insistence of our state department upon sending the commission overland instead of up the Yangtse river. The Chinese government was extremely unwilling to have the journey made in this fashion, while it had no objection to sending the commission up the river in a steamboat. As the American state department felt that the passage of the commission overland through the breadth of China, accompanied by a formidable escort, would have a most salutary moral effect upon the Chinese, resembling as it would a demonstration of force, the point was insisted upon; and Lieut. Commander Merrill is convinced that a substantial advantage was thus gained. He says that the position of the missionaries in the disturbed provinces is now more secure than it has ever been, and that the very presence of the commission, piercing as it did the very heart of China, and visiting as it did so many of the provincial capitals, gave China at large a decidedly greater respect for the United States.

Pleasanter as a Memory.

"I can't say that I particularly coveted the honor of serving on the commission," said Lieut. Commander Merrill, "and I should have willingly relinquished it to other hands. Of course it was full of interesting experiences, and is pleasant enough to look back upon; but I can assure you that it is pleasanter far as a memory than it was as a realization. Still, of course I did not demur. I was at Chefoo with the Baltimore when the cable came from Secretary Olney. It was on Sunday. By the following Sunday I had gotten as far as Teintsin, where I joined the other members of the commission, and we set out on our long journey without delay.

"There were no other members of the party, strictly speaking, but with all our forces mustered we made up a regular caravan, entirely too strong to be bothered by mountain banditti or straggling marauders. Our main vehicle of transportation was the sedan chair, and each of the three of these required sixteen coolies. Our servants had six coolies each to look after them. The Chinese government provided us with a cavalry escort of twenty-five men, in addition to which most of the local magistrates in the provincial capitals did us the honor to furnish a temporary escort from one city to another. All told the cavalcade numbered 200, and sometimes nearly 300 people.

The 3,000-Mile Trip.

"We left Tientsin October 6, and you may roughly trace our journey by drawing a line through Pantungfu, Taiyuen, Tungkuan, where we crossed the Yellow river; Siganfu, in the province of Shensi, and thence on to our destination at Chentu, in the province of Szechuan, where we spent nearly three weeks. On our return we came over an entirely different route, by way of Chungking, and thence following up the Yangtse gorges till we reached Ichang, the present head of navigation, where we once more laid the tips of our fingers on civilization. Thence down the Yangtse to Shanghai, our journey became a voyage and a comparatively easy one. We reached Shanghai February 1, having been on the road a trifle less than four months, including stops, and having traveled in all about 3,000 miles. While other foreigners at various times have covered portions of the same itinerary, I think I am perfectly safe in saying that no one else has been over our entire line of travel since the days when Marco Polo told those strange stories which have grown more credible with the lapse of time.

"During the entire trip we were blessed with remarkably fine weather. At times we were delayed by snow, but only twice were we really stopped, and then by rain storms which rendered the already poor roads actually impassable. You know the Chinese never repair anything. When a bridge breaks down or is washed away, it simply stays down. There is no organized system of working the roads, which in the interior are little more than paths.

"Our progress was facilitated in every way by the Chinese officials, who did everything in their power to help us. At all the principal points we were entertained at the government or provincial inns, a vast improvement over the ordinary Chinese inn, which is little better than an American cowshed. In each of the provincial capitals we met the ranking officers, they semed to vie with one another in extending us every possible courtesy affording us all possible means of information. They are of course all thoroughly educated, that is, according to Chinese standards of education. Possibly the best man we met in the interior is the governor of Szechuan, who impressed me as being thoroughly trustworthy and competent. Americans must take into consideration that these men are the outcome of centuries of ultra conservatism. They are full of curiosity as to American methods and were constantly asking us questions about railroads and other industrial enterprises. Many of them expressed themselves as being convinced that China must do something in this line. But even a deep-seated and wide-spread conviction of this kind will be long bearing fruit in China. But all these gentlemen were most cordial in their treatment of us, and the result was that we went through our whole journey as securely and as comfortably as travelers in China well could travel.

Everything but a Wheelbarrow.

"What methods of travel did we use? Well, absolutely every method known in China, with the solitary exception of the wheelbarrow. As I have said, our main reliance was the sedan chair. We also kept our ponies with us, but they were of little use except to afford us some relief now and then for an hour or two each day. From Chungking to Ichang we took a long boat called a quadza. It was about sixty or seventy feet long and contained a house of four rooms. In front of this house was the crew, rowing the boat. Back of it was the helmsman. On this strange craft, just above Ichang, we encountered the most perilous part of our whole trip. We there descended the whirling Shintan rapids, where at one point our boat had to make a sheer drop of three feet over a fall. A special pilot had to be taken on. We were warned of the danger, and the Chinese government had kindly provided us with special chairs by which to make a detour of the rapids. But other members of the party wanted a spice of adventure, and I wished to make some notes, as I expect to write something on the navigation of the upper Yangtze, and so we all stuck to the boat and went over the fall. Our average rate of travel on land was twenty-three miles a day. You can scarcely conceive the amount of work required to cover that distance. Every morning we had to be up two hours before daylight, and we had to keep pegging away all day long."

"Can you tell the public anything as to the result of your investigation?"

"Ah, now you are trespassing on state secrets. Our report was made up at Shanghai, and left there by the last mail. As to the nature of its contents, of course I can not with propriety give you even a hint.

"I may tell you, however, what I think the public would be glad to know, viz.: That in no single instance did we find that any of the outrages had been caused by any rashness or imprudence on the part of the missionaries. In general they seem to have arisen from the absolutely unsettled condition of China, due to the war with Japan.

The Missionaries.

"The missionaries have threaded their way everywhere throughout the interior. Their work is wonderful. They precede trade, and are the pioneers of civilization. We saw no other foreigners save at Chung King, where we met Mr. Woodruff, of Morristown, N. J., who is customs commissioner in the imperial maritime service, the service organized by Sir Robert Hare to collect duties due England from China. On account of its excellent work the system has been continued and is now international in its personnel, Sir Robert having planned that each nation should be represented in proportion to its amount of trade with China. At Chung King we met also Mr. and Mrs. Little. Mr. Little is an English merchant and the author of a book on the Yangtze gorges. A German merchant in the same city completed the list of foreigners we encountered, other than the missionaries."

"After reaching Shanghai, February 1, the commission, as already stated, made up its report, which has just been forwarded. Lieut. Commander Merrill was thrown closely, during his sojourn in Shanghai, with L. S. J. Hunt, from whom he brought letters of introduction to this city. He reports that early in February Mr. Hunt was suffering severely from the effects of vaccination, but had recovered entirely, and was in better health than usual when he left him.

Leaving Shanghai March 22 by the Empress of Japan, Lieut. Commander Merrill arrived at Vancouver April 8, and came on to Seattle, reaching here Thursday evening. He has spent part of his time out at Yarrow, where Mrs. Hunt, of course, extended him a cordial welcome. Yesterday he was at luncheon on board the Monterey, where he met a number of his former shipmates. He leaves this morning at 5:50 o'clock by the first Northern Pacific train on the new schedule, for his home in Marshall, Mich.

"I should like very much to stay over and witness the docking of the Monterey," he said, last night, "but I haven't seen my wife for nearly three years, and am naturally anxious to push on to Marshall, where certain bright eyes and expectant faces are waiting for me.

Met Old Acquaintances.

"By the way," he continued, "I notice a number of my old Marshall acquaintances are in Seattle, among them Judge Burke, Mr. Bagley and Mr. Beach. I learned this evening that one of my old Annapolis friends is also here today, Lieut. Wyckoff. We were in the naval academy together for three years, and I have not seen him since."

Lieut. Merrill's Career.

Lieut. Commander Merrill is a charming conversationalist. He is a man of commanding stature and of fine personal appearance. His bronzed face shows the traces of outdoor life and the tonic of sea breezes, and his hazel eyes are clear with the light of health and intellect, while his dark hair and black, drooping mustache have not a gray line to tell that he is approaching his 50th year. Yes, his 50th, for he was born in 1847, at Auburn, N. Y. But he is really a Michigander, for his parents removed to Marshall when he was but 8 years old. At 16 he entered the United States naval academy at Annapolis, from which he graduated four years later, in 1867. He was at once assigned to the Mediterranean squadron, where Admiral Farragut was then making his cruise. Returning he spent eight months at the Darien canal, after which he was assigned to duty as an instructor at the Newport torpedo station. Then he went to sea again for awhile, but was soon recalled, to be put in charge of the naval experimental battery at Annapolis, where all the guns and powder for the navy are tested. There he remained for two years. After another breathing space at sea, he spent five years at Annapolis as instructor in mathematics, physics and chemistry. Then he was placed on the staff of Admiral Greer, at that time in command of the European station. When he returned to America it was to find that his work at Newport and at Annapolis had been so highly approved that he was to be made head of the department of mechanics and applied mathematics in the naval academy, where those important branches occupy so important a place. This appointment, received in 1889, he held for four years. In June, 1893, he joined the Baltimore as executive officer, and went to the Asiatic station, where he remained till appointed on his present mission last fall.

When asked last night to tell of some of the special honors or adventures that had marked his naval career, he refused to spin a yarn, and only smiled as he said modestly: "There is nothing noteworthy about my career. It is simply a varied experience that has fallen to the lot of an average American naval officer." But however high the average American seamanship may place its officers, the public, in view of Lieut. Commander Merrill's long and distinguished service, will not accord him any such mediocre rank as "average."

Unexpected, Though Proper Enough.

London Truth.

Teacher (to infant Sunday school class) —The idol had eyes, but it couldn't—

Children—See.

Teacher—It had ears, but it couldn't—

Children—Hear.

Teacher—It had lips, but it couldn't—

Children—Speak.

Teacher—It had a nose, but it couldn't—

Children—Wipe it.

Reward.

A reward of $10 will be paid for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any one stealing copies of the Post-Intelligencer delivered to subscribers throughout the city.

For summer hats, tulle and chiffon form an important part of the trimming.

OUGHT TO GO HOME.

Mr. Dingley's Advice to Republican Congressmen.

HE BLAMES THE SENATORS.

Thinks There Is Nothing to Do Now but to Pass the Appropriation Bills and Adjourn.

Washington City, April 11.—Republican members of the house gathered at the capitol tonight in the second caucus of this congress to determine the party policy on the immigration question, but because of the failure to secure a quorum no definite action was taken. The meeting was chiefly interesting from a speech made by Mr. Dingley, of Maine, the leader of the party on the floor of the house. Speaker Reed was not present, but Mr. Dingley spoke, outlining the views upon general legislation held by the leaders of the house.

So far as legislation relating to immigration was concerned, Mr. Dingley's speech did not inspire its friends with much hope. The general tenor of his address was that the Republicans should use every endeavor to bring about an early adjournment of congress, if possible, within a month, as soon as the appropriation bills could be passed by both houses. There was considerable general legislation before congress, Mr. Dingley explained, but most of it would have to be left undone, and perhaps the immigration question would be among those which could not be taken up. While he expressed his personal interest in the immigration bills, he deprecated caucus rule of the house, and recommended that the order of business be left to the judgment of the committee on rules. The programme of the committee, as Mr. Dingley outlined it, is to take the fortifications bill up next week, and follow that with the pensions and bankrupt bills.

For the failure of general legislation Mr. Dingley blamed the senate.

When Mr. Grosvenor called the caucus to order there were 97 members present, about 25 less than a quorum. Nearly an hour was consumed in discussion of the advisability of any action by so small a number, with the opinion predominating that no action which would bind the house could be taken by the meeting. There was also debate, led by Mr. Payne, of New York, upon the point whether party policy did not dictate that the immigration question be passed by. It was argued by Mr. Payne that the party platform did not justify so radical a step as the bills before congress proposed, the platform committing the party to the exclusion of criminals and contract laborers only. Other members discouraged action on the ground that the senate could not be depended upon to indorse any policy inaugurated by the house.

Two bills were finally made the basis of discussion—the McCall bill, imposing an educational test, and the Stone bill, for consular examination of immigrants—both of which have been reported from the immigration committee. Chairman Barthold, of that commttee, spoke in support of the main features of the McCall bill, but strongly opposed the Stone bill, presenting many protests from German-American organizations and many newspaper articles against it. The two bills were explained by their sponsors, Mr. McCall, of Massachusetts, and W. A. Stone, of Pennsylvania. Mr. Stone suggested amendments to his bill which would meet the objections urged by Mr. Barthold, that under its operation many young Germans of military age, the most desirable class of immigrants, would be excluded. A dozen speeches were made for the McCall bill. The consensus of opinion seemed to be for this bill, with amendments to prevent the separation of families imposing the educational tests on the heads of families alone.

CHANGES IN THE SENATE.

Effect of Three Years of Continuous Republican Success on Congress.

New York Sun.

One effect of three years of continuous Republican success, 1893, 1894 and 1895, is seen in the success of the Republicans in getting control of the legislatures of former doubtful and debatable states, Democratic, some of them in 1892, and Democratic again, it may be, in 1896. In the great majority of American states there are biennial elections to the legislature, and in most states the members of the higher or senate branch hold office for four years.

The full effects of party triumphs in legislative battles do not, therefore, appear until some years after the victory has been won, and thus many Republicans are looking forward with great confidence to elections to the United States senate by next year's legislatures, irrespective of the result of November voting. The terms of the following senators will expire on March 4, 1897: James L. Pugh, of Alabama; James K. Jones, of Arkansas; George K. Perkins, of California (he has been re-elected); Henry M. Teller, of Colorado; Orville H. Platt, of Conecticut; Wilkinson Call, of Florida; John B. Gordon, of Georgia, whom Charles F. Crisp expects and Hoke Smith is trying to succeed; Fred Dubois, of Idaho; John M. Palmer, Democrat, of Illinois (the Illinois state senate consists of 32 Republicans and 19 Democrats): Daniel W. Voorhees, of Indiana; William A. Peffer, of Kansas; William B. Allison, presidential candidate, of Iowa; Joseph S. C. Blackburn, of Kentucky (the legislature has adjourned without filling the office, and it will be vacant on the assembling of congress); Newton C. Blanchard, of Louisiana; Charles H. Gibson, whose successor, Mr. Wellington, a Republican, has already been elected from Maryland; George G. Vest, of Missouri; John P. Jones, of Nevada; James H. Gallinger, of New Hampshire; D. B. Hill, of New York, who will succeed himself if the Democrats carry the assembly in November by a majority large enough to offset the Republican lead in the senate; Calvin S. Brice, of Ohio, whose successor, J. B. Foraker, Republican, has already been chosen; J. C. Pritchard, of North Carolina, H. C. Hansborough, of Devil's Lake, N. D.; John H. Mitchell, of Oregon; J. Don Cameron, who is not a candidate for re-election, and whose place the Quay Republicans expect to fill with J. B. Robinson, of Chester; John L. M. Irby, of South Carolina; James H. Kyle, of South Dakota; Justin S. Morrill, "the father of protection," of Vermont; W. C. Squire, of Washington, and William F. Vilas, of Wisconsin, Democrat, who will certainly be succeeded by a Republican, and for whose place two factions of Republicans are contending.

Of the twenty-nine United States senators whose terms cease concurrently with that of President Cleveland and Vice President Stevenson, thirteen are Democrats, twelve Republicans and four Populists. The Democrats have already met with losses in Ohio and Maryland, and are likely to do so in Indiana and Illinois, which with the loss temporarily at least of Blackburn's seat in Kentucky, brings down the number of Democrats to be succeeded by Democrats to eight. The Republicans are tolerably sure of their present twelve and of four in addition, exclusive of any seats which they may be able to gain from the Populists, and it is therefore quite certain that they will be able to organize the next senate with Republican votes and without any Populist help. The present senate, excluding Utah, where the Republicans gained two, consists of forty-three Republicans, a minority, thirty-nine Democrats, and six Populists.

CHARLES TRICOUPIS DEAD.

Ex-Premier of Greece and Her Foremost Statesman.

Cannes, April 11.—M. Tricoupis, ex-premier of Greece, is dead.

Charles Tricoupis was born in 1832, and was premier of Greece during most of 1893 and 1894. A writer in a recent number of the Atlantic said of him:

"To his scorn of physical feeling and indulgence, and to his almost unlimited power for work, is due in great part, doubtless, his remarkable versatility and breadth of knowledge; a versatility that his friends are fond of comparing with Gladstone's, though until his knowledge manifests itself more in print few will be prepared to go so far. Certainly, however, this knowledge is extraordinary. A few moments' talk with him on politics shows not merely the politician of the keenly practical type, who deals with men as they are, and who knows their weaknesses well, but shows also the political philosopher and student, the master of comparative constitutional law and practice. One might expect this, perhaps, from a lifelong political and diplomatic training; but he is also generally conceded to be easily the first financier of Greece, and he would be a great financier anywhere. Yet—and this illustrates his power of acquisition and reasoning—one of the members of the cabinet, and himself commonly considered one of the strongest students of finance in the country, a man well worthy to be minister of finance, said of him: 'When I first knew him well, in 1874, Tricoupis was not a financier, was not even a strong student of finance, not having turned his attention that way. Later, the question became of vital importance, and he took it up. In an almost incredibly short time, he had become a master of the subject, in theory "and in practice, as applied to Greece.'

Nearly every educated Greek knows French well; but Tricoupis speaks English also, practically like a native Englishman, with perfect readiness and mastery of idiom. Though he does not pretend to the same familiarity with German, yet he speaks the language with Germans who call call to see him, and has a like command of other tongues.

"In speaking of Tricoupis as an orator—for he is easily, especially from the standpoint of a thoughtful Englishman or American, the greatest orator of modern Greece—it is not a little amusing to note that Greeks are impressed, even in his speaking, by his power of endurance. 'I have seen him speak four hours at a stretch, without taking a sip of water,' said one of his admirers, 'while Delyannis' (his chief political rival) 'drinks glass after glass in a budget speech.' I have even seen the same statement in print. Tricoupis' power of very condensed lucid statement is most exceptional. In his budget speeches he shows rare clearness and force in the exposition of a difficult subject. To these qualities are added a coolness of judgment, a willingness to look to the bottom of things and to see the unfavorable side of his own case, that are very persuasive in an orator. His frankness, lately, in openly recognizing the bankrupt condition of the treasury illustrates his direct way of dealing with difficulties, while his striking statement of the case shows his oratorical power. In its English dress, one of his budget speeches lacks, as it must, perhaps, in translation, something of the polish of phrase and of allusion and apt comparison that make a similar speech by Gladstone really delightful reading; but it is no less clear or persuasive. His diction, too, is said by the Greeks to be remarkably pure, and even classic in tone—the highest praise for a Greek to give it."

The Death of John A. Cockerill.

Cairo, April 11.—John A. Cockerill was unconscious from the beginning of the attack and died at 10:05. He was out driving in the afternoon, apparently in perfect health. At 7 o'clock he went to the barber shop at the hotel, and while there he was seized with an apoplectic attack. He fell from the chair and was carried to his room, and Dr. Murison was sent for. The doctor gave out the following account of the case of the patient, who lay in bed partially undressed, breathing heavily and absolutely unconscious: "My diagnosis is cerebral apoplexy, from hemorrhages. It is a fatal attack." At a quarter to 10 the colonel's face became livid, and at 5 minutes past 10 he died, peacefully, without having regained consciousness. Mr. Penfield, the United States diplomatic agent in Cairo, on being notified of the melancholy event, left a dinner party at which he was a guest, and with Mr. Washington, the United States vice consul general, went to the colonel's bedside. Mr. Longworth, Barney Washington and the doctor witnessed the and, saw the body conveyed to a mortuary chapel at midnight.

THE SUPPLY OF ALUMINUM.

Patents That Enable a Single Concern to Control Its Manufacture Here.

New York Sun.

Although small articles in aluminum have not had the popularity that was expected for them, the demand for the metal is steadily growing, and the manufacturers in this country are enlarging their plants. The manufacture of the metal in this country by the cheapest process is now controlled by a single concern, the Pittsburg Reduction Company, which owns the patents and has compelled all other manufacturers to abandon the use of the patented process and retire from the business. There are but two factories in the country, one at Niagara, N. Y., the other at New Kensington, Pa., about twenty miles from Pittsburg. The New Kensington factory turns out about half a ton of aluminum a day, the Niagara factory about one and a half tons a day. The capacity of the latter will soon be doubled. The Cowles aluminum factory at Lockport, N. Y., closed some time ago, in consequence of litigation with the Pittsburg Reduction Company. Aluminum sells now in ton lots at 50 cents a pound. There is a handsome profit at this price, and it cannot be very many years before the price is reduced much further, by which time the use of the metal will have greatly increased.

Aluminum suffers somewhat in contact with salt water from the fact that the metal as thus far manufactured contains about one-half of one per cent. of sodium. It is believed that if this can be removed, the metal will resist the action of salt water. The production of aluminum that is proof against the action of sea water will greatly widen the field of the metal. It is already extensively used as a substitute for iron, lead and copper in piping for various purposes, and it is likely to supply the place of architectural iron in some cases. It is coming into use in bicycles. It is believed that a strong 14-pound bicycle can be made of aluminum. As yet, however, the aluminum bicycles are not much below the weight of the lightest machines.

Meanwhile students are at work upon the problem of cheapening the metal and upon that of producing it absolutely free from sodium. Oddly enough the earlier processes of producing aluminum had for their main object the production of sodium, and aluminum was merely a by-product. That was in the days when aluminum was either merely a plaything of the laboratory or an expensive luxury.

The company that controls the manufacture of aluminum in this country has a dangerous rival in a German company of immense capital with works at Neuhausen, Wurtemberg, and at Michel, France. This concern manufactures by the patented process in successful defiance of the American owners of the patents.

It is believed that the foreigners can produce the metal somewhat cheaper than the American manufacturers, but the latter are amply protected by a duty of 10 cents a pound. The German concern produced in Wurtemburg, in 1894, 1,200,000 pounds of aluminum, and in France 200,000 pounds, while in the same year the American product was 540,000. The price of aluminum in Paris in 1856 was $100 a pound, a price that made it even then much more valuable than silver, though silver has since greatly fallen in price. The price of aluminum at Pittsburg in 1894 was 50 cents a pound, being one two-hundreths of its price of forty years ago. Its price last year in Wurtumberg was 35 cents a pound.

Mildly Interested.

New York Sun.

"Your excellency," said the great Thurber, "it may interest you to know that a newspaper has stirred up a good deal of interest on the question, Who are the three greatest Americans?"

"Who are ahead for second and third place?" asked Mr. Cleveland, with languid interest.

It is an item on the farm to plan the work so that every day can be used to a good advantage. It is the steady, everyday work that counts in farming or in other lines.

GALA DAY AT VENICE

To Mark the Visit of Emperor William of Germany.

HUMBERT GOES TO MEET HIM.

The Emperor Kisses the Crown Prince, the People Shout, Cannons Roar and Flags Wave Proudly.

Venice, April 11.—The city has been a scene of festivity all day long. Interest is stimulated by a royal proclamation announcing the arrival of the expected guests. Decorations are to be found everywhere, many designs expressing sentiments of good will toward the royal visitors.

The Hohenzollern arrived off the Piazetta at 3:20 this afternoon, followed by the Kaiserin Augusta, the cruiser Vesuvio, two torpedo boats and a number of steamers, with eighteen senators, civil and military officials and representatives of the press on board. This flotilla was met by a fleet of eight municipal barges, gorgeously ornamented. A swarm of gondolas surrounded the larger boats. The gondolas were filled with sightseers. The scene witnessed on the occasion of the arrival of the boats was brilliant in the extreme, bunting being flung from the masts of all the vessels and flags flying from the windows of all the houses facing the quay, which was densely crowded.

Upon the approach of the German vessels the warships fired salutes, and the Hohenzollern replied by hoisting the Italian flag. The bands on the various steamers struck up a German anthem. The people cheered long and loudly at this interchange of greetings and acknowledgment of the presence of the ruler of Germany.

At 3:25 p. m. King Humbert, Queen Margherita and the crown prince, Prime Minister Rudini, the Duke of Sermoneta, minister of foreign affairs, and Gens. Ponziovaglia and Lanza, proceeded on board the royal barge amid the wild cheers of the assembled multitude. The meeting of the sovereigns was of the warmest nature, the emperor of Germany and the king of Italy and Empress Augusta and Queen Margherita embracing twice. Emperor William then kissed the Crown Prince Victor Emanuel, Prince of Naples, on both cheeks. The presentation of the suites of the rulers of Germany and Italy then followed. King Humbert and Queen Margherita were on board the German vessel fully three-quarters of an hour, and the people ashore were constantly cheering, the enthusiasm being particularly pronounced on the occasion of the arrival and departure of the representatives of royalty. The Hohenzollern band played the Italian royal march, and the municipal bands responded by playing the German anthem. When King Humbert and Queen Margherita and the Prince of Naples returned to the royal palace they were greeted with every mark of popular devotion.

WARM FOR AMERICANS IN HAVANA

Hooted in the Streets by Spaniards and Their Every Move Watched.

New York Sun.

A New Yorker who recently returned from Havana told a Sun reporter some of his experiences there and what he had observed of the condition of the town. "Havana appears very quiet," he said, "except for the marching of soldiers, which continues nearly all day, and the drilling of the volunteers. Apart from these features, the life of the town seems to be going on quite as usual, but one feels all the time that, like a volcano, the city is ready to become excited at the slightest provocation. The authorities realize this danger and the theaters have been closed and the bull fights discontinued. Everything is done to prevents any meeting which would collect a large number of citizens.

"The feeling of the Spaniards against the Americans is intensely bitter. One day when I was driving on the outskirts of the city a crowd of twenty or thirty Spaniards collected on the road and began to follow our carriage. It was only by turning up a side road that our driver succeeded in getting away from the crowd, who were running after us at full speed, cursing America and shaking their fists at us. It was only in the Cuban restaurants that it was safe for us to talk with any freedom at all, and then only when we had secured a private room and were certain of not being overheard by persons not connected with the establishment. My companion and I never thought of talking with any freedom in our room at the hotel. We were watched from the day we reached Havana, and every letter we received plainly showed marks of having been opened. It is impossible for Americans to get any letters out of Havana. I brought a number myself addressed to people here which it would otherwise have been impossible to get outside the city.

"One sees and hears very little of the Cuban population of Havana, while the Spaniards are on every hand. Gen. Weyler's brutality is very much talked of. He has Havana by the throat, and it takes just such a man as he to control it. We had an instance of his power when the news reached Havana on the day it was learned that the house had confirmed the senate action. It was rumored that the Volunteers were to make a protest that night against America, and an American who had been for some time in Havana came to the hotel at which we were stopping to warn us that it would be dangerous to leave the hotel that night. The Volunteers is a Spanish troop made up of a great many young men of the town. Our waiter in the hotel and the man who attended our rooms were Volunteers, and all the clerks and men in similar positions belonged to the association.

"After we had spent two or three very uneasy hours in the hotel, word came to us that Gen. Weyler had checked the proposed demonstration, and had done it in a very characteristic way. He sent word to the Volunteers that if they gathered in the square that night to make any show against the United States or threaten to harm any American in Havana he would call out the regular troops and cut down the Volunteers until the streets ran with Spanish blood. He had heard of the proposed demonstration and kept all the regular Spanish troops that day in the forts near Havana preparatory to quelling any disturbance that the Volunteers might create. We were not allowed to get outside Havana, as no Americans are allowed to leave and go into the interior."

MENELEK ON RELIGION.

He Shows That He Can Hold His Own in a Theological Discussion.

Le Figaro.

Negus Menelek of Abyssinia addressed the following letter to Mr. F. S. R. Clarke, an English missionary, on February 3:

"You are mistaken in believing that I do not care for your prayers. All prayers of believers are dear to me, even when they come from the children of Europe. Not all are aggressors in my kingdom; not all commit the iniquity of attacking those whom they hope to find weaker than themselves; not all have bent the knee before Baal, the god of destruction and the slaughterer of brothers. Many, I am sure, still adore the God of the cross, the God of justice and of peace. With them I feel in perfect communion of faith and I am happy that they pray for me, for my household and my people.

"I only wish that they would make truth dwell in the sanctuary, and that instead of a mutilated gospel which explains the confusion and the infidelity of the peoples of Europe, they would return and lead others back to the true gospel which began with the creation of the world.

"By what right do they efface the whole portion of it which precedes the coming of Jesus Christ and have they done away with what God established for all time?

"What you call the Old Testament is as true as the New, and what is contained in it must be respected and observed by those who follow Jesus and the apostles, announced by the prophets.

"Never did Jesus abolish the distinctive mark of his race, since he was subjected to it by His holy mother on the eighth day. To suppress thus what God established 'from age to age, and from forever to forever' is to weaken the faith, is to furnish the same spectacle shown by the Christians of Europe. It is not only without that they use violence, but also within; against the Jews, who are nevertheless Christian souls, and to whom we owe our Savior. There are more than 300,000 of them in my kingdom, and, although they enjoy almost complete independence, they are obedient and industrious subjects. They never conspire, pay all tributes, and respect our abuna as much as do the Christians. If they are worse in Europe, it is because the Christians, too, are worse. Our Lord Jesus forgave them on the cross. Why should we persecute them? You at least do not persecute them. May the other Christians of Europe imitate you.

"What you need is to return to our God, to observe all His ordinances, to no longer separate Moses and the prophets from the apostles, or St. Peter from St. Paul. Whoever wishes to serve God must humble himself and obey. You know that, envoy of God. Teach it in Europe and Asia. I am having it taught in Africa.

"May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. MENELEK."

Dr. Peter's Flimsy Defense.

New York Evening Post.

The defense of Dr. Peters has been received in Germany with almost universal derision. The correspondent of the London Times in Berlin, commenting upon his case, writes: "The verdict of official Germany on Dr. Peters will depend on the result of the fresh investigation ordered by the imperial chancellor, as the three inquiries on the subject have not, as Dr. Kayser put it, proved his 'subjective guilt.' But for the nation at large, and for the outside world, Dr. Peters is a condemned man solely upon the strength of the statement made by the director of the colonial department. The picture which can be formed of him from his own books only serves to confirm and supplement what is now known from other sources, and shows that he is qualified to take his place side by side with Herr Leist and Herr Wehlan in German colonial history. Dr. Peters attempted to excuse his conduct in executing the negro and negress by saying that he was bound to maintain his authority. This manner of preserving discipline, indeed, seems during his whole career to have been a prominent feature in Dr. Peters' character, and many instances of it occur in his own writings. It apparently never occurred in the past to the colonial authorities at home that a man who could find no other means of maintaining his authority than by the exercise of brute force and drumhead courtmartial was a man who absolutely lacked personal authority and every natural gift which inspired respect, and was, therefore, totally unfit to be intrusted with important posts in distant lands."

Germany's Growing Population.

London Standard.

Men who have not kept note of the increase of population in Germany will be startled by the result of the late census just published. On December 2 the emperor had 62,244,503 subjects in Europe, counting Alsace and Lorraine. It is a prodigious number, but to understand all the significance of the figures one must compare them with earlier returns. When the inhabitants of the empire were first numbered, in 1871, they were 41,058,792. This means an increase of 27 per cent. in as many years. And during that time the emigration has been enormous. That accounts in part for the astonishing difference in ratio in different portions of the empire. The population of Saxony has multiplied by 49½ per cent., while Alsace and Lorraine show but 6 per cent. They are exceptions, but Wurtemberg has only 14 per cent., Bavaria 19. Prussia itself, upon the whole, has increased by 29 per cent., Hesse 21, Saxe-Coburg and Gotha 24. Doubtless it is the growth of manufactures, in especial, which explains the predominance of Saxony, and that of mining enterprise in the Rhine provinces which comes next, with an advance of 42 per cent. So the poor return of Bavaria and Wurtemberg must be due to the decline of agriculture, which compels emigration. The town population has increased proportionately. Berlin and Hamburg have more than doubled. One cannot but think of France in reading these extraordinary figures. French people are apt to console themselves with the assurance that other nations will cease to multiply, just as they themselves have done, as the same causes or feelings begin to operate among them. There is much ground for believing unfortunately, that this calculation will prove true. Perhaps the population of Germany has not increased as it would have done in former times. But it is crushing to French hopes all the same.

Patti and Her Price.

Chambers' Journal.

Of course, in this matter of money and music, no one needs to be told at this time of day that Mme. Patti is far and away the best remunerated artiste in the world. Patti was the first prima donna who demanded in Paris a nightly salary of 10,000 francs. When it was conceded to her, her rivals preferred the same claims, so that, to keep her supremacy in the operatic market, she persistently raised her price to 15,000 francs, which sum she received for each of the three concerts she gave in one week at the Eden theater. And yet Patti began modestly enough. When she made her debut in London in 1862 she was engaged for five years at a salary of £150 a month for the first year, £200 for the second, £250 for the third, £290 for the fourth, and £400 for the fifth year, the lady to sing twice a week.

Until her marriage to the Marquis de Caux Patti never received from Covent Garden more than £120 per night. Considering that the diva gets £800 per concert in London, and that an American contract recently gave her a minimum salary of £1,200 per night, plus expenses and half of all the gross receipts over £2,400, times have undoubtedly changed. During the last ten or twelve years Mme. Patti's annual average has been about £40,000. To the non-professional mind this may seem out of all proportion to the value given and received.

Japan's New Battleship.

New York Tribune.

A new Japanese battleship, just launched, is 412 feet long and 73½ feet broad, with a displacement of 12,300 tons. She will carry four 12-inch guns, each with 120 degrees arc of fire; ten 6-inch quick-firing guns, twenty-four 3-pounders and four torpedo tubes. The armor is 18 inches thick, Harveyized. The horsepower and speed will be 10,000 and 16¾ knots with natural draft, and 13,500 and 18¼ knots with forced draft, and there will be room in the bunkers for 1,200 tons of coal. The hull is divided into no less than 181 water-tight compartments. In addition to the armament mentioned, each of the two military masts will have two fighting tops with two 2½-pound quick-firing guns; and there will be two 56-foot torpedo-boats, each with a 2½-pounder quick-firing gun; a 42-foot steam launch, a 30-foot steam pinnace, and six other boats. The ship's company will number 600 men. This is only a sample of the fleet which this amazing nation is having built as rapidly as the best ship yards in the world can do the work. When a dozen such fighters, and a score of cruisers to match them, are on duty in Eastern waters, there will be less bullying and plundering of Japan by European pirates.

OBVIOUS.

"How is it you wear only one spur?"

"Well, you see, one side of my horse goes well enough without one."—St. Paul's.

Three Myths.

Chicago Daily Tribune.

"What's the use of going on with this farce?" exclaimed Gessler. "We're both myths. We don't exist."

"In that case," said William Tell deeply chagrined, "I may as well go and drown myself in the maelstrom!"

"Oh, yes, you will, I don't think!" sneered Gessler. "That's a myth, too!"

A Test of Vanity.

Westfalisches Volksblatt.

Lady (applying the test)—Ach; what a pity! The handsomest gentleman in the company has got a splash on his waistcoat!

All the gentlemen present look down in consternation at their vests.

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When you see a man whose muscles stand out like the coils in a rope you envy him. He looks like one of Nature's noblemen, and his strength is so overpowering it brings from you an exclamation of wonder. And yet may be he would gladly sacrifice that muscular power for the recovery of another element that he has lost—nerve force. Muscular strength is not everything. The muscular giant is sometimes the most veritable coward at heart—weak, nervous, afraid of his own shadow. It seems ridiculous, but it has been proven in our experience that the largest men are always the weakest in nerve and vital power. They are the first to succumb to the ravages of Nervous Debility. Nearly every day we come in contact with men who are physical giants, but who have begun to fail in vital and nerve power, and who would in a few years, on account of this treacherous drain on their vitality, fall victims to Nervous Debility. This is the enemy which in time robs you of all your strength, muscular, nerve and brain. Would you protect yourself against it? Then begin using Dr. Sanden's Electric Belt now.

Dr. Sanden Electric Belt

San Francisco, Cal., February 16, 1896.

Dr. A. T. Sanden—Dear Sir: When I received your Belt No. 5 on May 6, 1895, I was in a broken-down condition, both physically and mentally, had no ambition for anything, could not sleep well, had a very poor appetite, and was always thinking about my trouble. After I had worn your Belt a month I was much improved, and I gradually became stronger every day, and to-day I am a better man than I have ever been, and I would advise every sufferer from troubles like mine to secure a Dr. Sanden's Electric Belt. It will cure without fail. Yours truly, GUST. JOHNSON, [illegible] Mission street.

There is only one way to replace the vital strength in your system. That is proven by the thousands who have been cured by Dr. Sanden's Electric Belt after all other remedies had failed. Call and consult the doctor about it free. He has devoted thirty years to the treatment of such weakness. Get the book, "Three Classes of Men," free on application.

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