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WORLD'S—1903—FAIR.

GOOD CHANCE TO HELP THE POOR.

There should be a very general and generous response to the appeal of the St. Louis Provident Association for cast-off clothing, household goods, bedding, etc., for distribution among the city's destitute, this being a regular and most beneficent feature of the association's charitable work.

An appeal of this character does not call for any sacrifice on the part of the giver, and yet means a great good to the helpless poor. Clothing and other material which else would be thrown away as no longer available for use can be used to great advantage by the Provident Association among its poor clients. Some deserving persons are even enabled to gain employment through these means, being paid by the association for repairing the garments, household goods, bedding, furniture or whatever of a serviceable nature may be donated.

The springtime is a good time for such a collection to be made as is now being undertaken by the Provident Association. The wearing apparel and the like which you would now cast aside as worn out and to be gotton rid of, you should give to the Provident instead. Notify the association and its wagons will call at your house to receive your donation.

NO BLAME FOR VERNAL LAZINESS.

When the curse of labor, the earning of his bread by the sweat of his brow, was imposed upon Father Adam in Eden some years ago, the full horror of this penalty for sin must have been made manifest by a choice of the springtime as the season for its initial infliction.

Doubtless the Garden was in its freshest and most youthful vernal bloom. The sun was grateful to Adam's healthy skin and the new greensward tempted him to rest upon its elastic surface and idly watch the clouds loafing across the blue sky over Paradise. Eve, too, was singing, one may easily believe, as all her daughters have since loved to sing in the springtime.

Adam must have poignantly felt the curse of labor then. We cannot doubt this, because his vernal loathing for work has descended to his race through all the generations. The child of the First Man who toils in the springtime with anything but rebellion in his soul is an abnormal creation. It is difficult to imagine that there are any such, since they are not in evidence to the material senses.

This little matter is called to public attention just now for the sake of disarming criticism and averting rebuke of those who are dawdling through their daily tasks as May approaches. They would be either more or less than human if they did not dawdle. It is because of the Law that fell on Adam in vernal Eden.

CUBA AND THE UNITED STATES.

When President-elect Palma of the Republic of Cuba bade farewell to the people of the little New York village of Central Valley, with whom he and his family have lived as neighbors for more than twenty years, he testified feelingly to his affection for them.

"It is with regret that I must leave you," the Americanized chief of the Cuban Junta of revolutionary days declared. "I am obliged to go to my native country. But, when I do go, I shall feel as though I had left part of my soul in Central Valley. It shall remind me that my country, Cuba, is united very closely with the United States."

These words have the ring of sincerity in them, and Palma's friendliness toward this Government and people has been too steadily and consistently manifested to warrant a doubt of their genuineness of quality. In whatever issues may arise affecting intimately the interests of the two countries it is very certain that Cuba's President will bring to their consideration a temper of amicable understanding of the American attitude which cannot but facilitate the maintenance of the most cordial relations.

This fact must prove of great benefit both to Cuba and the United States. One of the most likely developments of the not remote future, especially if the American Government deals fairly and sympathetically with the new Republic, is that the Cubans will voluntarily ask for annexation to the United States. Sentimental considerations prevail at the present time to make them determined upon the establishment of a free and independent Republic of Cuba. They have dreamed of "Cuba Libre" for years. They have fought through two stubborn wars to break the chains that held them in bondage to Spain. It would be strange indeed if they were at once willing to become a part of the United States, foregoing the patriotic satisfaction of giving Cuba a page in the world's history as a free and independent nation. Yet it will be almost as strange, with men like Palma encouraging friendship toward this country, if the Cubans do not soon perceive the wisdom of asking for annexation to the United States.

CHARACTER IN MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.

One of the most likely, and certainly one of the most desirable, results of the aroused local determination for good government is that voters will be brought to a proper realization of the sound truth that the administration of the affairs of a great city is a matter of business which need not be entirely regulated by partisan political considerations.

The first requisite in the selection of men to manage the city's affairs should be that of fitness from the standpoint of character and training. There is no political principle vitally involved in a municipal election or in municipal administration. A municipality is in effect a great joint-stock organization in which every citizen is profoundly interested. The men at the head of this organization should be the best men in the community; chosen because they are the best and wisest, the community being reasonably assured by their known record as citizens that they will faithfully serve the city which thus honors them.

The application of this idea to municipal elections does not by any manner of means threaten a loss of legitimate influence to any political party. Quite to the contrary, it contains the sanest promise of increased influence to that party which resolutely names its best men for office, refusing to be dominated by evil elements or to regard the municipal revenues, contracts, franchises and the like as so much loot for division among party spoilsmen. A political organization which earnestly intends to serve the people could not ask for a more encouraging condition of the public temper than that which insists upon the nomination of capable and honest men for municipal office.

When the opportunity comes for this principle to be applied to the selection of candidates for the Municipal Assembly the truth should be made exceedingly plain that the popular insistence is for clean and faithful Assemblymen, and that this demand must be met by the political organizations which ask popular support for their candidates. The vote for Municipal Assemblymen must be a vote for men, based on knowledge of their personal characters and worthiness, not a blind party vote for party nominees. The necessity for the redemption of the Municipal Assembly from the control of corruptionists is vital indeed. The new spirit of resolution for good municipal government must bring about this desired and imperatively necessary reform.

AN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT.

With the inauguration of Doctor Nicholas Murry Butler as President of Columbia University, attention is again directed to the character of these important positions.

Time was when the saintly and learned man, perhaps with no other qualifications, was deemed the ideal college or university president. That day has passed. There is not a large institution of education which does not seek an executive rather than a teacher when choosing a responsible head. Doctor Butler's predecessor, the present Mayor of New York, is typical of this class. Doctor Harper of Chicago University is equally distinguished as an executive. Doctor Jesse and Chancellor Chaplin in Missouri are men of the same broad type.

This is an evolution in the conduct of schools which has been rendered necessary by the increased demands of modern organization. No university considers itself well equipped unless an endowment of millions separates it from the small school. The increase in the curricula of universities creates a demand for the service of an exceptional man of affairs.

In one way the American college or university president is unique. His powers are almost imperial within the scope of the school. Trustees find little fault as long as his administration is a success. His recommendations receive great weight. In emergencies he seldom hesitates when the limitations of his duties are questioned, but goes ahead on the assumption that he is the real center of the university.

He accomplishes things. Whereas a European school slumbers along under the administration of various boards and committees the American college moves with a swiftness which is little short of the marvelous. The executive president or chancellor works while the other plans. He must be a business man able to grasp large details. He must be a man of the world as well as of books.

Whether this development will continue until the teaching force of a school will be under the charge of one dean or rector while the fiscal affairs will be guided by a manager or chancellor remains to be seen. The possibility of friction between the two heads might be a discouragement to such a system. Yet the Board of Control would be the final authority. It is hardly probable that the evolution has reached its highest form and, until a better plan is found, trustees will still be on the lookout for the men of exceptional force now required as heads of the great institutions of learning.

EDUCATION IN BUSINESS.

In view of the large benefactions to institutions of higher education which are made by men who have been practically self-taught, there would seem to be little reason for discussion of the effect which a college training has on the man who enters business.

It must be acknowledged that the rich man who neglects to send his children to the best schools is the exception. None of them wish their offspring to undergo the same hardships which befell them. Even the most practical man will not allow that an education is a luxury.

Andrew Carnegie's book on "The Empire of Business" contains a short chapter on the college graduate which is as sensible as the philanthropic Scotchman's remarks usually are. After reading his views on the subject one is forced to believe that President Schwab of the Steel Trust gained his predilection for the uneducated man from some one else than his old patron.

Following is a short extract from Mr. Carnegie's book on this subject: "Unless the university man employs his time to the best advantage in acquiring knowledge upon the pursuit which he is to make the chief business of his life he will enter business at a disadvantage with younger men who enter in their teens although lacking in university education. This goes without saying. Now the question is: Will the graduate who has dwelt in the region of theory overtake the man who has been for a year or two in advance of him engaged in the hard and stern educative field of practice? That it is possible for the graduate to do so also goes without saying, and that he should in after life possess views broader than the ordinary business man deprived of university education is also certain, and of course the race in life is to those whose record is best at the end; the beginning is forgotten and is of no moment."

With this judgment little disagreement can be found. Yet Mr. Carnegie emphasizes the necessity of the graduate entering business at the bottom of the ladder. "The exceptional graduate," he explains, "should excel the exceptional nongraduate. He has more education, and education will always tell, the other qualities being equal."

Mr. Carnegie can be taken as an exceptional nongraduate. If he feels so certainly the disadvantages under which he has labored there would seem to be little doubt left on the subject. The memorial library which he built in honor of the man whose books were placed at his disposal testifies to the hours which he spent in overcoming his handicap. Education may not be a necessity, but the lack of it is a calamity to any but the most courageous spirits.

WORTHY OF SUPPORT.

There should be a liberal response to the appeal for funds issued by the Anti-Saloon League. The good work which has been done by this society in the past justifies a continuance of support needful for its maintenance.

The character of the business men who have become active participants in the efforts to secure an enforcement of the law is sufficient guarantee that the money will be well spent. Results which were obtained last year by this organization justified the businesslike methods of those in direct charge.

According to the reports made by the agents of the League there is a failure on the part of dramshopkeepers to keep orderly places. It is charged that winerooms are permitted and that the 1 o'clock closing order is not obeyed.

Chief Kiely has not shown the proper spirit when discussing this matter. He has apparently forgotten that his duty is to see that the laws are enforced. It is to his discredit if private citizens must be put to trouble because of any negligence on his part.

If the work of the Anti-Saloon League will make offenders respect the law the better element of citizenship should support the organization. Watchfulness is necessary. This being the case, citizens should discharge the duty resting upon them by coming to its help.

With the April Grand Jury entering upon its investigation of the bribery cases the local public will confidently hope for a continuation of service such as was rendered by the December and February bodies. The material at hand is plentiful, and every citizen having knowledge of the matters under inquiry, or of any other instances of municipal corruption, should promptly communicate with the present Grand Jury. There should be no question that definite results will follow the investigation now resumed. The movement for the purification of the Municipal Assembly must be prosecuted to the fullest success possible to an aroused civic conscience.

In all likelihood the general belief that the St. Louis World's Fair is to be postponed to 1904 will be developed into certainty by the action of Congress in the near future. There will be every good reason for general satisfaction if this is the case. The builders of the World's Fair are in no way doubtful of their ability to complete their work by the time originally set for the opening, but the fact that the foreign governmental and other exhibits cannot then be in readiness may make imperative the Fair's postponement. The year of additional time granted because of this fact will insure the holding of the biggest and best World's Fair yet known in the history of such enterprises.

The four hundred business and professional men to whom the Reverend Father Coffey has appealed for assistance in the crusade against the wineroom evil should be glad to co-operate with that worthy priest for the attainment of a most desirable end. A personal appeal is made to them as representing the moral forces of the community. They should be faithful to the best interests of their city and willingly extend to Father Coffey all the assistance and encouragement possible to them. The fight on the winerooms is a fight against crime and moral degredation. The criminal elements of the city must not be permitted to emerge triumphant from such a fight.

RECENT COMMENT.

Congressional Campaign Indications.

Baltimore Sun.

The present indications are that the Democrats at the coming congressional campaign will drop or altogether ignore silver, and will conduct the contest upon the live questions of the times. There are enough of these clamoring for settlement. The tariff and reciprocity, the treatment of Cuba, the conduct of the war in the Philippines and the control by law of combinations and monopolies—all these questions are up for settlement. That the Democratic party is getting ready upon these issues and not upon the silver issue is indicated by the call of the Congressional Committee upon Richard Olney and Daniel Lamont, two members of Mr. Cleveland's Cabinet, and both of them gold men, to take part in the direction of the campaign. The speech of David B. Hill at the Tammany headquarters is also a sign that the fight is to be conducted upon the living issues. The disposition to get together is a sign of promise for a vigorous campaign.

"Mad Jack" Percival of the Navy.

New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Captain Percival of the navy, whose portrait has just been presented to the Navy Department, died in 1862. He was known as "Mad Jack" Percival because of eccentricities which on many occasions brought him in conflict with the naval authorities. The portrait was sent by Mrs. William Nicholson, but who she is the department is unable to discover. Captain Percival was sent to Morocco with his frigate to bring back a cargo of jackasses for the Government, and in order to show his contempt for the employment of a war vessel for such a mission, on entering New York Harbor he ran in all his guns and placed the head of a jackass through each port as the ship sailed in. The sight of a double row of jackasses' heads protruding from the places where guns were looked for created a sensation at the time, and "Mad Jack" narrowly escaped a reprimand.

She Has Surely Earned It.

Tid-Bits.

The Italians are discussing the advisability of pensioning Mrs. Maddalena Granatta, a lady of 57, who lives near Nocera, twelve miles from Naples. Her husband has been dead ten years, but during the nineteen years they lived together as man and wife they had sixty-two children born to them, fifty-nine of the lot being males. Eleven different times in nine years triplets were born, and on three different occasions four boys were announced, and once there were four boys and a girl.

Concerning World's Fair Postponement.

Hartford Times.

The World's Fair at St. Louis is not to be postponed until 1905. President David R. Francis is very positive about that. But what he says indicates clearly enough that a postponement is under consideration. It may be regarded as inevitable that the opening of the Fair will go over until 1904. It is not possible to complete the preparations in twelve months from the present time.

Foolish to Stay in the Business.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"I see it is stated that the late Sir Walter Besant wrote eighteen novels in eighteen years."

"How foolish he was to keep at it."

"Why do you say that?"

"Because I wrote a novel and all they paid me for it was $35."

Too Much of Both.

Cleveland Leader.

Out in St. Louis the people are calling for less smoke and less talk. It seems that wherever there is smoke there is a corresponding amount of talk.

ERA OF WOMAN'S REIGN.

Never Has the Civilized World Lived Under a Sovereign So Absolute as Woman Is at This Moment, Says Hall Caine.

BY HALL CAINE.

We may speak of the present era as the reign of King Edward, of King Victor Emmanuel, or of the Emperor William, but in a still broader and better sense it is the reign of Woman. Never has the civilized world lived under a sovereign so absolute as Woman is at this moment. It is a sweet and benevolent despotism she exercises, and her subjects are obviously content, but the extraordinary fact about her sovereignty is that her rule, which is so unlimited, has been so short. No doubt she had always exercised a certain absolutism in the Court of Love, but in the Courts of Law her rights have only recently been recognized.

Even as late as sixty odd years ago, when Queen Victoria came to the throne, woman's position was one of more or less honorable servitude. If she was married, the law regarded her as one with her husband, but with the slight anomaly that all that was hers was his, while all that was his was his own. If she was unmarried, she was still in the eye of the law a grown-up infant in swaddling clothes. Woman's place was almost entirely dependent on her agreeableness and usefulness to man, and for many centuries there had been no idea in the heads of legislators that she possessed any legal rights except those of marrying and giving in marriage, and of ruling over the cooking and the kitchen and the nursery. There was, perhaps, no conscious cruelty in all this, and it was probably based on a theory of the utter helplessness of woman to take care of herself under any circumstances—the old idea of her incapacity for business and of the general inferiority of her talents. So much for her condition as a reputable member of the state, but, as a criminal, her position was even worse. Down to the beginning of the Nineteenth Century a crime of which both sexes might be equally guilty (of which the male was nearly always the more guilty), was punished in the person of the woman only, while the man was always allowed to go free.

Women Beasts of Burden.

"If there is a word of truth in history," said Macaulay, writing early in Victoria's reign, "women have always been, and still are, playthings, captives and beasts of burden." And Lord Brougham, about the same period, said: "There must be a reconstruction of the law before women can have justice. In short, the condition of English law, as recently as sixty years ago, in relation to a woman was about on a par with that of the Hindoos. All this was, no doubt, due to the fact that lawmakers were men, and hence there was truth in Mrs. Browning's lament of, 'Women sobbing out of sight because men made the laws.' In that respect also we resembled the Hindoos, of whom it is told that they punished a certain crime with awful severity, even to burning the offender alive, but the punishment varied according to the caste of the transgressor, and the Brahmins, who made the law, got off with the shaving of their heads—the only difference in England being that our English Brahmins usually took care that they were bald to begin with.

What Women May Do Now.

All this is changed. Women are now practically on an equality with men, and the legal subordination of one sex to the other is gone. The idea died hard; it would be amusing, if it were worth while, to tell how hard. There is next to nothing that a woman may not be and do in England now. She may be a guardian of the poor, a church warden, a sexton, a medical officer of a workhouse, or a member of the London School Board. She may practice medicine, and take academic degrees. She may go to law and maintain an action against her own husband, and he has even lost his ancient legal right of beating her. She may trade on her own account, and enjoy the distinction of being a bankrupt without the penalty of going to prison under the debtors' act. She may vote for a municipal council, if not for Parliament. She may be a deaconess of the church, if not a deacon. She may be a juror in certain cases, if not a Judge. Thus the old idea that man and wife are one is practically exploded, and it is not impossible that future legislation may decree that under certain circumstances the woman is both.

Woman and the Franchise.

One limitation of the legal rights of woman still exists—she is not yet admitted to the franchise. That this is a right desired by all women is not quite certain, but that it will be attained seems probable, and that it ought to be aimed after is a conclusion that only those will question who have not fully considered the altered needs which the altered condition of woman has brought about. By virtue of what superiority can man withhold from woman, as she now is, an equal right with himself to control the management of her own affairs? Is her brain less active? Is her education lower? Is she more liable to be swayed by unworthy motives, or even more subject to the bribery and corruption of an eternal will? The noble and magnanimous being, man, if he knows himself, and if he knows woman also, knows perfectly that he can claim none of these points of superiority. And if the franchise is to be long withheld from one-half of the human family it can only be by virtue of the last surviving spark of the old barbaric idea (however disguised and beautified) that woman is not a separate being, but merely the creature and property of man.

Huxley assures us that in the new order of things regarding woman the old Salic law is not going to be repealed, and that no change of dynasty will be effected; but when we hear of a Jewish lady, with the appropriate name of Solomon, being appointed to the position of Jewish Rabbi, it seems as if women, who have always been angels, and are understood to be ministering angels, were even about to become ministerial angels as well.

Effect on Character.

There will be differences of opinion about the value of this change, but the tree is known by its fruits, and it must be abundantly clear that the altered state of woman during the past fifty or sixty years has produced good results—first, in opening up or developing many fields of activity to women, wherein they have acquitted themselves with credit and honor—in literature, where their increasing industry has been equaled only by the increase in their numbers; in journalism, where they have won golden opinions in every field, except the battlefield; in painting, where they have often excelled, although Doctor Johnson held it to be indelicate in a female to practice an art (that of portrait painting) which might require her to stare in the face of a man; in the drama, which appears to be even more properly her domain than man's domain; in nursing, a noble and beautiful and truly womanly calling; in medicine, a profession peculiarly appropriate to her sex, as well as in the humbler but no less important vocations of clerkly and secretarial work. And if Byron is right that the true touchstone of desert is success, then the success of women is the justification of their emancipation. No six centuries in England have produced so many eminent women as the last sixty years: Miss Florence Nightingale among the heroines of the hospital; and in literature, art, music, and the drama, George Eliot, Mrs. Browning, Mrs. Gaskell, Charlotte Bronte, Emily Bronte, Jean Ingelow, Christina Rossetti, Mrs. Carlyle, Mrs. Siddons, Fanny Kemble, Sarah Bernhardt, Eleonora Duse, Mme. Ristori, Ellen Terry, Mrs. Humphry Ward, Mrs. Craigie and Mrs. Clifford, not to attempt to call up more of the long roll of distinguished women.

Value of Change.

The altered condition of woman is, no doubt, having its effect on the character of the sex. Every reader of the novels of Jane Austen—in which the most striking characteristic of woman is that of being without character—must realize that the old types are passing away. Woman, at the beginning of the Twentieth Century, may be open to criticism at certain points, but it cannot be said that she is characterless. The necessity to fight the world on its own terms, to compete with men in professions hitherto controlled by them is developing a type of woman that is immensely interesting and attractive. The little armour of mannishness which is being put on in the same way, and for much the same reason, as Rosaline dons the doublet and hose, "let lie within what woman's fear there will," is in itself a very touching and beautiful characteristic.

AUTHENTIC NEWS OF THE VAST UNIVERSE OF STARS.

"A hundred years ago inventors and investigators were rare, scattered men, and now invention and inquiry is the work of an organized army. * * * All this world is heavy with the promise of greater things, and a day will come—one day in the unending succession of days—when beings, beings who are now latent in our thoughts and hidden in our loins, shall stand upon this earth as one stands upon a footstool and shall laugh and reach out their hands amidst the stars."—"The Discovery of the Future."

New Books on Astronomy.

"The Stars." By Simon Newcomb (Murray). Illustrated. Gives an excellent and careful summary of the present knowledge of the stars, and contains a beautiful photogravure frontispiece of the trifid nebula, reproduced by half-tone method below.

"Pleasures of the Telescope." By Garret P. Serviss. London: Hirschfeld Bros. Contains a very clearly printed series of twenty-six star maps, and gives much information suitable to observational work with a small telescope. Mr. Serviss is an American, and writes with great lucidity. The structure of a telescope is also illustrated.

"The Earth's Beginning." By Sir Robert Ball. (Cassell & Co.) With four plates and many illustrations. An interesting account of the nebular theory, brought up to date with a wealth of illustrations of great interest at the present time owing to appearance of the striking nebulosity round the new star in the constellation Perseus.

There have been happenings in the heavens during recent days which deserve recording. Modern refinements of the telescope and spectroscope have shown that the whole of the heavens, including the "fixed" stars, is in movement; but beyond this one of these happenings touches man very nearly, although it has not had any apparent effect upon his earth. The changes which the new star in the constellation Perseus has undergone, and is still undergoing, are throwing light upon that problem of the structure and duration of the universe which Mr. Newcomb in his new work on the stars describes as the most far-reaching with which the mind has to deal: "Its solution may be regarded as the ultimate object of stellar astronomy, the possibility of reaching which has occupied the minds of thinkers since the beginning of civilization."

It will be remembered that the astounding star known as Nova Persei burst forth on or a few hours before the night of February 21, when Doctor Anderson at Edinburgh was the first to observe a great flaming star in Perseus in a space which was familiar to him as a rather blank part of the heavens. It is known that the star was certainly not there on February 19, two days previous, for reasons which will be shown.

New Star in Heavens.

The Harvard Observatory in America have for the last ten years kept a sleepless eye upon the heavens by means of the camera, and their series of photographs of the star-strewn sky forms an unimpeachable record of heavenly affairs. The latest plates of Perseus were taken on February 19, 1901, and on examination they showed that where the blazing star now shone was a vacant spot showing not the smallest speck of light.

The cause for this sudden conflagration of a mass probably hugely exceeding our own sun has been set down to the existence of a dark meteor swarm or a nebulous mass through which some dark body (which are known to exist in thousands) had torn its way. Now energy arrested by collision produces heat, and there was evidently heat in the district of Perseus on the night of February 21, 1901.

The first tremendous brilliancy ceased, as has been the case with other novas, until in June it was barely visible to the naked eye. About this time the spectroscope showed evidence that it had become a nebula. In August Professor Max Wolf of Heidelberg took a four-hour exposure plate of the star with a refracting telescope which showed nebulous clouds of uncertain character. It was not until September 20 when Professor Ritchey of the Yerkes Observatory took a photograph of the star with a more suitable instrument that it was definitely seen that the star had really become the center of a circular mass of glowing nebulous matter of a shape which seems to be an ocular demonstration of that nebular theory first propounded by Kant and Laplace a hundred years ago.

A World in Formation.

But this is not all. On November 11 a telegram from the central bureau for astronomical telegrams at Kiel announced that: "From Crossley photographs Perrine finds that four principal condensations, faint nebula surrounding Nova Persei, moved southeast one minute arc in six weeks.—Kreutz." This meant that the brightest part of the nebula had moved at the rate of at least 2,000 miles a second, a speed sixty times greater than any previously measured star velocity. It was just as if an engineer suddenly learnt that a locomotive had traveled sixty times seventy miles an hour.

In the Ritchey photograph the image of the star is enlarged on account of the long exposure, but there is little or no halo of nebulosity immediately about it. Completely surrounding the star, however, is a large elliptical belt of nebulosity some twenty seconds of arc in diameter, with concentric and spiral bands. It is the presence of these bands which gives such an interest to the nebula, for they seem to be a visual demonstration of the bands which are theoretically held to be thrown off by a whirling nebula in the process of becoming a sun-and-planet system. The irregular bands draw themselves together by gravitation and naturally take the form of a sphere, and eventually cool until they become planets; and now in the heavens appear these bands and a whirling spiral movement of astounding speed. Subsequent photographs confirmed the extraordinarily large movement of the nebula and showed that it was also expanding, apparently in every direction.

The latest news of the nova is contained in a circular from Kiel (to which all discoveries are cabled to establish priority), which announces that on March 5 Professor Wolf obtained a fine photograph with an exposure of four hours, which showed that all the former condensations had become weaker. From the nova toward the southwest there now extends a new long zone of nebulosity much brighter than the previously existing condensations. Indeed, on February 2, the date of the last previous photograph, this region was very bright. This later nebulosity is brighter than the appearance of August, 1901. P. H.

Before an Old Mirror.

Quaint mirror glass of relic fame,
You hold a charm that brings me here,
And bids me pause beside your frame
And gaze into your depths so clear,
Yes, gaze in silent awe upon
The mystic fantasies you show;
I see the faces, every one,
That stood before you lone ago,
I see gallants of grandma's day
Arrange, precise, their faultless stocks,
And sires, though already gray,
Reach up and powder white their locks,
And dames with carmine saucers new,
And bags of powder in a row,
Touch up, just as they used to do
Around one hundred years ago.

HOW DE BEERS'S OPERATORS CONTROL DIAMOND TRADE.

Special Correspondence of The Sunday Republic.

London, April 2.—The diamond merchants of Hatton Garden do not disguise the fact that the failures in Antwerp and London represent a crisis in the trade, but they take refuge in the hope that the end of it is in sight.

"The trouble was inevitable," explains one of the leading merchants of Hatton Garden. "After two lean years the Antwerp speculators counted upon a big Coronation boom. They bought a lot of stones in the rough, and now that they are cut find they cannot sell them. Being men of limited capital, they have gone to smash. But that does not affect the trade generally."

A diamond merchant's office is as little as possible like the "shilling shocker" conception of it. The Marquis of Anglesey made more show with his paste ornaments on his pantomime tunic than all Hatton Garden and Ely place combined.

A safe stands in the corner of the room and there is a pair of delicate scales on the writing table. For the rest, the room might belong to an insurance agent or an accountant in a small way of business. There are no outer and inner guards, no man-traps, none of the sensational apparatus of the transpontine drama.

Thief-Resisting Safe.

The safe is especially constructed to resist thieves and fire and a fall from a fifth story. Except for that the precautions are no more obvious than they would be in a grocer's back parlor. Yet the safe always contains enough to make a rich man's mouth water. When a dealer of repute locks up his office and goes home to dinner he seldom leaves less than $100,000 worth of precious stones behind him.

A few days ago there reposed in one of the Hatton Garden safes two pearl necklaces worth $400,000 between them. Occasionally when a merchant has been "round the Garden," collecting jewels for the approval of some rich customer, he may lock up half a million's worth of stuff in his safe. And even the expert declines to give an estimate of the total value of all the precious stones in Hatton Garden and Ely place on any given night.

The modesty of the display is as astonishing as the value of the stock, and more astonishing than either is the absolute confidence reposed in each other by men in the trade. A merchant neither gives nor takes a receipt for his "parcels," and a parcel of diamonds may be worth anything up to $8,000. Between nine and ten in the morning a merchant's office is crowded with travelers and brokers.

"I want such-and-such a grain," says the traveler. "Here you are," replies the merchant, handing him a tiny paper parcel, on which is inscribed the weight and the price per carat. He looks at the stones, and takes them or leaves them. If he takes them, the parcel is entered to his name. He may keep them for a day, or he may keep them for a week, but the merchant bothers no more until he returns.

Pocketfuls of Stones.

Calling upon a West End jeweler, it is a common thing for a traveler to produce $20,000 worth of stones from his pocket. The stones are in their parcels, and the parcels are contained in a specially-made leathern book. The parcels pass from hand to hand and nobody thinks of counting the stones or demanding a receipt.

The trade is dazzling in sentiment, but remarkably prosaic and business-like in practice. The merchant or the broker examines his diamonds just as he would examine specimens of cut glass, and that is very much what a parcel of diamonds looks like in the cold light of day. In a diamond merchant's office they never seem to remember that there was such persons as Aladdin and Monte Cristo.

But for real cold business, with about as much sentiment as if they were selling bales of sugar, you must go to the fountain head. The diamond trade of the world is in the hands of the De Beers Company, and the syndicate in London takes the whole of their output. Consequently, every dealer in the world has to come to London for his rough stones. Very few firms are in the position to deal directly with the syndicate. They have to deal through a broker, who may represent half a dozen large houses.

The monopoly is absolute and complete. A broker approaches the syndicate, not as one conferring a favor, but as one praying for it.

"May I venture to ask for a sight of your first shipment in May?" he writes. "Trusting to receive a favorable reply, I am, yours, etc." If he is lucky enough to receive a satisfactory answer, he takes $400,000 in his pocket and buys as much stuff as he can get. It is not for him to ask prices. Those are fixed by the syndicate. He pays his money and takes his diamonds.

Just before Kimberley was besieged, the syndicate had thirteen parcels to sell. There were 114 applicants for a "sight" of the goods. An English broker went in first and bought four parcels, an American followed and bought four, another American took five—and the remaining 111 would-be purchasers went empty-handed away.

America, being largely populated by millionaires takes two-thirds of the diamond output of the world, and likes quality as well as quantity. That is why diamonds are dear, and likely to remain so. "Oh, I can't sell diamonds at the present price," says the English jeweler. "De Beers will have to come back to the old price, and then I shall do as much trade as ever."

He forgets that the Americans who are the best customers, do not grumble about the price. So long as they do not the Englishman may grumble from one Christmas to another without effect.

Prices Do Not Rise.

"If that is so," it may be inquired, "why not double the price?" For a simple economic reason. The price is just about what it was before South African diamonds came on the market some twenty-five years ago. Put it up to any considerable extent, and it would pay to reopen the Brazilian and Indian mines, which were not exhausted, but throttled by competition.

Above everything else this will be a pearl year—partly because of the Queen's fondness for the gem, partly because it has been growing in popularity for some time past. The demand is out of all proportion to the supply, and prices have reached a figure never known before.

There is a necklace in London at present priced at $240,000, and the other day a jeweler asked $5,000 for a pair of pear-shaped pearl earrings of very modest size.

W. R. HOLT.

DISCREDITS REPORT ABOUT PRINCE EUGENE'S ENGAGEMENT

To the Editor of The Republic.

Dear Sir: Please allow me to deny the report that Prince Eugene, youngest son to King Oscar of Sweden and Norway, is engaged to marry Miss Wild of Baltimore. This contradiction may interest some few of Miss Wild's friends.

Although at present living in St. Louis, I claim to know enough of what is going on in my native country, by many reasons. Having formerly been an officer in the Royal Swedish Army and moving in the highest society, where I had admission by right of my parents' high social standing; also having had the honor at few occasions to be invited to entertainments given by the King in his castle, I take interest in what is going on, and refer to the royal family as well as to other events at home. Thus I have every Sweed paper published in Stockholm sent to me, and not one allusion has been made as to the Prince's engagement, which is not such an insignificant affair that it can be carried out clandestinely. My family writes me often, giving me plenty of society news of people whom I know personally, and not one word has been said by them in regard to the match.

If, let us suppose, Prince Eugene would like to marry this young lady, whom he may know, he would have to renounce in royal council, in the presence of the King and his Swedish and Norwegian Ministers, all royal prerogatives and rights. This is an official act, which is immediately published in the Government's official paper. This has not been done.

A. LINDERSHOLM.