BLAINE ON TOP.

THE PLUMED KNIGHT IS PUNISHING HIS ENEMIES.

Who is He?—Wants to Go to England—The Office-Seekers Very Restless.

[From Our Regular Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, March 15.—There is evidence almost daily that in the nominations being made James G. Blaine is punishing the men who have opposed him in his political aspirations and rewarding those who have been his friends. Take, for instance, the members of the Samoan conference which is to meet at Berlin. These are William Walter Phelps, of New Jersey; Jonn A. Kasson, of Iowa; and a Mr. Bates, of Delaware. Old Ben. Butler wanted to be appointed a member of this commission. He came down to Washington, and it was generally thought that he would be successful, but Blaine has not forgotten Benjamin's capers in the campaign of 1884, when he temporarily cut loose from the Republican party and ran as the labor candidate for President, and in so doing came very near beating the Maine man out of the electoral vote of Michigan.

WHO IS HE?

The friends of Beast Butler are asking, "Who is this man Bates of Delaware?" And well may they ask it, for very few people here ever heard of Bates. Phelps has for many years been a devoted shouter for Blaine, and of course he had no difficulty in being appointed a member of the conference.

THE ENGLISH MISSION.

There seems to be no doubt of the fact that a serious difference of opinion exists between President Harrison and Secretary Blaine regarding the filling of the English Mission, as stated several days ago in this correspondence. Blaine decided that if he could have his own way, Whitelaw Reid would be appointed Minister to England. He also wanted Thorndike Rice made Minister to Berlin. Day before yesterday the Secretary of State went over to the White House at 1 o'clock, and he remained there until after 3 o'clock. He had several big official envelopes under his arm, and they are believed to have contained Blaine's recommendations for appointments to foreign courts. It is surmised that President Harrison stuck to his views expressed a few days ago that Whitelaw Reid could go to Paris, Berlin, or St. Petersburg, but that he was not willing that he should have the English mission. The Senate evidently expected a number of important appointments yesterday after the first batch was sent in, as a recess of two hours was taken, but nothing more came up from the White House. It is stated on what is regarded as reliable authority that Whitelaw Reid is now considering what he will do.

WANTS TO GO TO ENGLAND.

His heart is set on England, and it will be a great disappointment if he fails to get that mission. It will also disappoint Blaine, but if Harrison overrules his Premier in this matter he may try to do it in other instances, and then there will be trouble sure enough. Blaine has power and he knows how to use it. He has more followers than any other man in his party, and they are a reckless lot.

RESTLESS.

The office-seekers are growing very restless. Things are moving too slowly, and not only do they show evidences of disgust, but the congressmen who are compelled to wait here are wondering how Harrison can find time to make so many Indians and Montana appointments, and plead for more time in handling other matters. The appointments so far include, as a rule, only those which Mr. Blaine has been pleased to make to satisfy his own personal feelings, and the balance have been to friends of the President and of the "Crown Prince," as Russell Harrison is called.

THE HANGERS ON.

The hangers-on want changes made in the heads of bureaus, and they also think that the post-offices and internal revenue offices ought to be bombarded at once and the Democratic occupants driven out as speedily as possible.

MAHONE.

President Harrison is daily receiving a number of callers, but Mahone of Virginia has not been back to the White House since he was accorded an interview lasting less than two minutes. The general opinion here is that Blaine will see that Mahone has little or no influence with this Administration.

Colonel Dick Kerens, of St. Louis, the partner of Steve Elkins and a great friend of Blaine, is expected to reach Washington to-morrow.

General Nathan Goff has returned from West Virginia, and as he failed to get either the senatorship or the governorship it is said that he can have a good Federal appointment if he wants anything in that line.

W. R. Henry, of Henderson, N. C., and W. N. Reynolds and wife, of Winston, N. C., are at the Metropolitan, and E. H. Campbell, of Roanoke, and R. H. Catlett, of Staunton, Va., are at the same hotel.

Ex-Senator Riddleberger is still in the city, but has not yet called on President Harrison.

NEW CRUISERS.

Prospect of the Work on the Concord and the Bennington.

[New York Times.]

The work on the machinery for the cruisers Concord and Bennington is getting along at a rapid rate and its quality is certainly very satisfactory. The boilers for the Bennington are practically finished, those for the Concord are but little behind, while the machinery for the Bennington needs but the arrival of the steel shafts from the West Point foundry to finish up the work. As soon as these shafts arrive and the final work on the Bennington's engines is completed the machinery will be taken off the present bed-plates to make way for the setting up of the Concord's engines.

Chief-Engineer Ashton remarked yesterday that the boilers had not yet been tested, and he hardly thought they would be until the machinery was ready for moving. The boilers will either be tested right where they stand in the shops or they will be taken out into the street. In testing machinery for a certain strength cold water is put into the boiler, a fire is lighted, and the pressure is applied by the expansion of the water. In the case of the Yorktown's boilers the pressure given the boilers was 250 pounds, and this will very likely be the pressure applied to the boilers of the Concord and Bennington.

The cylinders will be tested by hydraulic pressure, but, as in the case of the boilers, they will not be subjected to the ordeal until all the work for the cruisers in the shop is at an end. Of course the Quintard people are taking this risk on themselves, for some contend that the testing ought to be in keeping with the progress made in the work. But the Quintard Iron-Works feel perfect confidence in their work. Much of the work, however, has been tested by the naval inspectors from time to time, they being able to do this by the eye. In all cases where any flaw was discovered the piece was rejected, but as the builders have evinced as ready a desire to detect these flaws as have the inspectors the work has been greatly facilitated. The eccentric straps gave the most serious trouble at first. Piece after piece had to be made before a perfect one could be obtained, the great majority showing, when pared down a little on the lathe, a crack near the base of the collar. If the work had been intended for a private concern much of the rejected materials would have been considered satisfactory, but for one of the new naval ships nothing but the very best work could be accepted.

The writer has seldom seen as pretty work as is now displayed at the Quintard machine-shops. For beauty of finish and perfectness in form some of the valve-gear for the new cruisers is simply faultless. To praise contractors is not often policy, but the Quintard people have so manifestly endeavored to do satisfactory work for the Government, regardless of inspection, that it is in justice due them to make praiseworthy note of what they have turned out. The machinery as well as the hulls for the new vessels are behind the contract time, but this has been the case with all Government contract work let out for the new naval ships.

The shafting for the Concord and Bennington is not as well along as it might be, but as the West Point people are working on it night and day it is fair to presume that they are doing their very best. When the writer visited the works at Cold Spring some two weeks ago there were at least three of the fourteen sections completed, and it was learned at the Quintard Works yesterday that the West Point people had given notification that one shaft was ready for shipment. It is expected down from Cold Spring any day. The navy officers at present detailed for inspection duty at the Quintard Works are Chief-Engineers Robert H. Hine and C. Ashton, Passed-Assistant-Engineer Stevenson, and Assistant-Engineer C. E. Manning—all of the United States navy.

The bids on the machinery for the new battle-ship Maine, now in process of building at the Brooklyn navy-yard, will be opened either the latter part of the present week or at the beginning of the coming week. The Quintard people will be among the bidders. The Delamaters and one or two other New York city firms will also compete. The Chicago is going to have for her batteries, in addition to electric-gear for training, Lieutenant Bradley A. Fisk's device for finding ranges. What with the amount of electricity already aboard the new cruiser, it looks as if the Chicago will be fitted out with more devices of modern invention than any war-ship afloat. It is commendable to see the department putting to practical tests the many mechanical innovations, although naval officers hope that the Government will not be too quick to adopt, in lieu of brawny muscles and steady eyes, the mysterious and not always to be relied upon electrical agent. It is well also to consider that in time of actual battle these electric motors may suffer from the heavy concussion, to say nothing of sustaining injury from the enemy's fire. But coming as they do at this stage of rebuilding the navy, the introduction of electrical workings aboard ship demand, if not a cordial welcome from naval commanders, at least a fair and unbiased test of their effectiveness.

SENATOR CHACE TO RESIGN.

Appointments Entirely in the President's Hands.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 15.—The published report that Senator Chace, of Rhode Island, had declared his intention to resign his seat in the Senate next Monday was shown to him by an Associated Press reporter this afternoon. He declined to either affirm or deny its truth, saying that he had not resigned, but further would not speak.

Another senator, however, stated to the reporter that at the caucus yesterday the contemplated resignation was announced, and a special committee of seven, headed by Senator Platt, was continued with the view to filling the vacancies that will be occasioned by Chace's retirement. The reasons announced in the caucus for the resignation are said to have been of a business nature; that he was unable longer to neglect his affairs at home.

Secretary Windom's attention was to-day called to the newspaper statement that he was overruled in the matter of the appointment of Assistant-Secretary Bachelier. The story was that he had tendered a place to ex-Assistant-Secretary Coon and that the latter had accepted it and that the appointment of Mr. Bachelier was in direct opposition to his wishes. It was further stated that Mr. Bachelier was Mr. Platt's man and he would have control of the Treasury patronage. Mr. Windom said he did not usually notice newspaper criticisms, but that this was so unfair and misleading that he did not like to let it go uncballenged. A matter of fact, he said, the President had specially referred this appointment to him and had acted in accordance with his recommendation in appointing Mr. Bachelier. It was true that Mr. Coon had been considered in connection with this office. He was regarded as possessing excellent qualifications for it by reason of his knowledge and experience. It was never tendered to him, however, and consequently he had not accepted it.

The appointment of Mr. Bachelier was made after careful consideration and was in no sense a reflection upon Mr. Coon.

Mr. Windom said that it was absurd to say that any assistant secretary would have control of the Treasury appointments. That was a matter entirely in the hands of the President and himself, and was not likely to be relegated to any other official. The secretary said that so far as he knew Mr. Bachelier could not be considered as anybody's "man."

Reading Iron-Works.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

PHILADELPHIA, PA., March 15.—The Falcon Iron and Nail Company of Ohio and Florence Mining Company of Wisconsin to-day through their counsel filed a bill in equity in the United States Circuit Court against the Reading Iron-Works, the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, and the Pennsylvania Company for insurance on the lines and granting annuities. The Sheriff of Berks county, complainant, asks for the appointment of a receiver for the Reading Iron-Works. In the bill it is alleged that the Falcon Iron Company's claim against the works is $22,000, and that of the Florence Company $7,980; the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company is proceeding in Common Pleas; the courts of Berks county to collect judgments for $140,000 which it has against the iron-works; that at a meeting of the creditors of the iron-works recently held no definite arrangement was made by the creditors for the collection of their claims, and complainants therefore ask that a receiver be appointed so that the interests of all parties may be looked after. It is also set out that two directors of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company are also directors of the Reading Iron-Works; that the Pennsylvania company for insurance on lines and granting annuities are trustees of a $600,000 mortgage on the Reading Iron-Works' plant, and complainants ask for an injunction to restrain the Sheriff of Berks county from enforcing the attachments and executions placed in his hands by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company against the Reading Iron-Works. Tuesday next was fixed for the hearing of the motion for the appointment of a receiver.

Tascott Said to be Captured.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., March 15.—The Tribune's Winnipeg special says: "Recently five detectives arrived here from Chicago, having a clue to the whereabouts of Tascott the supposed murderer. Tascott was supposed to be working in some neighboring lumber-camps. The detectives left here suddenly, supposedly for British Columbia. The news arrives this afternoon from Lake Winnipeg stating that Tascott has been captured, and is now on the way here in charge of detectives. Tascott was certainly here recently, and there is a probability that the right man has been found."

ST. PAUL, MINN., March 15.—A Pioneer Press (Winnipeg) special gives the following more definite statement of the capture of Tascott: "Some Indians arrived by a dog-train at 2 o'clock to-day at West Selkirk, a place twenty miles from this city, conveying the news that Tascott, the murderer of Snell the Chicago millionaire, had been captured on Lake Winnipeg by Chicago detectives who, accompanied by relatives of the murdered man, have been following a strong clue with the results stated for the past few weeks. They arrived near here just after Tascott left his work to go, he said, to Dakota. The officers are now reported to be on their way to the city with the captured murderer.

A Blow at the Coal Trade.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

PITTSBURGH, PA., March 15.—The failure of the miners and operators to agree upon a scale of wages at the Columbus convention and the dissolving of the interstate agreement are regarded as constituting one of the most serious blows that the coal trade in Pittsburgh has received for several years. Operators from this region who attended the convention returned home to-day. They say that the failure to agree upon a price means that each operator will hereafter act for himself, and that means a cutting of the selling prices of coal and mining, and possibly strikes. The question also comes up as to how it will affect the different associations of operators, and there are already rumors of these also being dissolved.

Operators say that the breaking of the interstate agreement was not only due to Indiana and Illinois operators, but to rivalry between the Progressive Union of Miners and the Knights of Labor. It is claimed that the Progressive Union officials should not have placed on record a reduction of wages as their first official action, as that would give the Knights of Labor an opportunity to say to the rank and file that no good results come from their joining the Progressive Union.

Copper Market.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

NEW YORK, March 15.—Cables from Europe to-day stated that the foreign copper market was dull with a downward tendency. Chili bars opened at £1 decline on the spot. There was scarcely a ripple of interest here when the only bids received came from the bears to cover short sales. Not a pound of metal was turned over.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

LONDON, March 1.—The copper market is nervous. The price advanced on Tuesday to £56; reacted and closed to-day at £51.

Increased Telegraphic Service.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

NEW YORK, March 15.—Telegraphic communication with the United States has been established by cable from Santiago de Cuba to Hayti and San Domingo, thence to the island of Curracoos, thence to La Guagra and Caracus, Venezuela, where connection is made with the Government land-lines for places in the interior.

An Alleged Swindler.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

CHICAGO, March 15.—William H. Davis, the real estate man who is charged with swindling so many people in selling them property not his, was arrested this morning. He declares Tallman's accusation that he swindled a large number of persons to be false, and says he had no intention of running away.

THE WHITE HOUSE

CONTINUES TO ATTRACT THE OFFICE-SEEKING PUBLIC.

Delegations from the South in the Van—The Cabinet Discussing the Opening of Oklahoma.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

WASHINGTON, March 15.—There was no perceptible diminution in the number of the President's visitors to-day. The rush began at 10 o'clock and continued until 12:30 o'clock, when the Cabinet assembled for its regular semi-weekly meeting. The President received three delegations during the morning—one from Georgia, headed by General Longstreet; another from Virginia, headed by John S. Wise, and the third from Washington, headed by General Breckell. The latter urged the appointment of Thomas A. Somerville as District commissioner to succeed Webb.

James S. Clarkson received his commission at 12 o'clock to-day and immediately took the prescribed oath and entered upon his duties as First Assistant Postmaster-General.

The Cabinet to-day had under discussion the opening of Oklahoma, or at least a portion of the territory included within its limits. The President is authorized by the terms of the recent legislation to open to settlement about 8,000,000 acres of land, and the opinion prevails that he will shortly issue his proclamation adding that acreage to the public domain.

EXPLOSION OF FIRE-DAMP.

Fifteen Persons Killed and Six Wounded.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

PARIS, March 15.—By an explosion of fire-damp in a colliery near Nimes to-day fifteen persons were killed and six injured.

Monopolizing Attention.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

LONDON, March 15.—The Comptoir D'Escompte copper rings and Societie des Metaux monopolize the attention of financiers. It is still hoped that all will eventually meet their liabilities. Although the magnitude of loss is appalling the effect will be circumscribed among those actually interested. Neither a wide-spread panic nor general financial disaster will ensue.

In some quarters the liquidation of the Comptoir D'Escompte and its reconstitution with the co-operation of London bankers and under a new management is advocated, the present shareholders to have the privilege of subscribing for the new capital stock. The situation is improving and the outlook is better. The skepticism of American mine-owners regarding the unanimity of the English owners to accept the syndicate's offer is believed to have been greatly overcome. English and American companies are working harmoniously. American delegates are expected in Europe at the end of March, when another combination or trust will be formed under Matthesson's auspices to fix the supply at figures that will enable the Societie des Metaux to meet its engagements. The formation of an English syndicate would result in the copper made returning to England. English capital being required to hold the stock, English agents would be employed to reach consumers.

The popular hostility against the syndicates is growing.

In the House of Commons W. H. Smith, Government leader, while refusing to interfere with the salt syndicate, declared that such combinations worked their own cure and tended ultimately to reduce the price of articles the rate on which they temporarily raised.

The French Government will introduce in the chambers a bill concerning credit societies, the object of the measure being to prevent a recurrence of scandals similar to that of the Comptoir D'Escompte. Comptoir D'Escompte shares, which opened at 390 francs on Monday and reacted to 465 francs on Wednesday, reacted to 315 francs to-day on renewed rumors that the Bank of France advices were not sufficient to overcome the existing difficulties. Other credit shares were freely offered, notably Credit Lyonnais and Banque des Paris. Rentes resisted at first but finally yielded, falling 25 centimes.

House of Commons.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

LONDON, March 15.—In the House of Commons this afternoon Home-Secretary Matthews was questioned with reference to the actions of Mr. Anderson, an official of the Home-Office, who permitted Le Caron the informer to look over the whole of the latter's past correspondence with the Home-Office authorities prior to his appearing as a witness before the Parnell Commission, and to select such letters as he thought would be of service to the Times. Mr. Matthews said that at the time he knew nothing of the course taken by Mr. Anderson, and consequently has not given it his sanction; but he now considered that Mr. Anderson had acted properly. Sir William Vernon Harcourt gave notice that he would submit a motion regarding Mr. Anderson's conduct when the police vote is discussed on Monday next.

A Big Day for Boulangism.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

PARIS, March 15.—Republican journals approve the action of Parliament in authorizing the prosecution of Senator Naquet and Deputies Laguerre, Laisant, and Turquet for their connection with the Patriotic League. The Paix and the Xixecicle regret the prosecution as an anti-Liberal step. The Conservative papers reproach the Republicans for breaking away from Republican principles. The Presse says that yesterday was a marvellous day for Boulangism. It declares that the electoral platform of the Boulangists is now complete. The Clairon, the organ of the Patriotic League, says: "It is now General Boulanger's turn. He must speak to the country."

To Avoid a Revolution.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

PARIS, March 15.—A committee of the Liberal Union has been formed, with Barbaux as president. Leon Say and other prominent men have become members. The committee has issued a manifesto protesting alike against the threatened Cæsarism and the radicalism which produced it, and urging the election of a majority of Moderates to the new Chamber in order to restore France's former position in Europe and to avoid a revolution.

On the Bourse.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

PARIS, March 15.—2 *P. M.*—The Bourse was very flat. Comptoir D'Escompte shares, 320 francs; Societe des Metaux shares, 90 francs.

5 *P. M.*—Comptoir D'Escompte shares are now quoted at 335 francs, and Societe des Metaux 91 francs 25 centimes; Rio Tintos, 319 francs 37 centimes.

On the petit Bourse Comptoir des Compte shares closed at 305 francs and Rio Tintos at 322 francs.

Resigned for a Purpose.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

PARIS, March 15.—Herr Antoine, who has just resigned his seat as Deputy for Metz in the Reichstag, will arrive here to-morrow. He intends to become a French citizen and to offer himself as a candidate for the Chamber of Deputies in opposition to Boulanger at the next election.

Searching Patriotic-League Houses.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

PARIS, March 15.—The police to-day searched the houses of many members of the Patriotic League. Persons against whom damaging evidence is found will not be arrested, but will be summoned to appear before a magistrate for examination.

Withdrawing Funds.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

PARIS, March 15.—Seventy-five million francs have been taken out from the Bank of France in addition to 100,000,000 francs advanced to the Comptoir D'Escompte. This is supposed to indicate that other credit and deposit banks have been obliged to discount their paper heavily.

Base-Ball.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

BRISTOL, March 15.—The Chicago and All-America base-ball teams played here to-day. The game resulted in favor of the Chicagos by a score of 10 to 3.

Adjusted.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

PARIS, March 15.—All of the duels arising out of Thursday's debate in the Chamber of Deputies have been amicably arranged.

Traffic Stopped by Snow-Storms.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

BERLIN, March 15.—Railway communication between Russia and Germany has been stopped by snow-storms.

Stock Market Flat.

LONDON, March 15.—The stock market was flat, owing to fears of troubles between Austria and Servia.

A Hotly-Contested Election.

LONDON, March 15.—An election was held in Kennington division of Lambeth to-day to fill the parliamentary seat made vacant by the resignation of R. G. Davis, Conservative. The election resulted in a victory for Beaufoy, the Gladstonean candidate, who polled 4,069 votes against 3,439 for Hope, the Conservative nominee. At the last election Davis, the retiring member, received 3,222 votes and Beaufoy 2,792. To-day's election was hotly contested, both parties straining every nerve to achieve success.

Tennis Tournament.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., March 15.—A St. Augustine special to the Times-Union says: "The tennis tournament was resumed to-day. In the singles Wright, the champion of Trinity College, beat Beach, the champion of Yale—6, 0, 6, 4. Campbell, the holder of Inter-Collegiate and other prizes, beat Thompson, of New York—6, 3, 6, 3. The Wright and Miller games were postponed. Each had finished one set and one game. In the doubles Smith and Wilcox beat Warden and Lynch—6, 4, 5, 7, 6, 5. Thompson and Trevor (the present tropical champion), beat Peacock and Worthington—7, 5, 1, 6, 6, 4. Wright and Campbell beat Smith and Wilcox—6, 1, 6, 1. Same beat Miller and Beach—6, 3, 1, 6, 6, 3.

The final contest for the National Tropical championship in doubles between Trevor and Thompson, of New York, and Campbell and Wright will be played to-morrow.

In the afternoon the winner of the match between Wright and Miller will play Campbell for "All-Comers' Cups" in the singles. He will then play Trevor for the Tropical Championship in singles. Great crowds and hundreds of prominent people of the North are present.

Died from Burns.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., March 15.—While trying to extinguish a burning fence Mrs. S. C. Treece, of Sord Mountain, set her dress on fire. She made her way to a spring and extinguished the flames. She was found shortly after, but died of her burns.

Cotton Warehouse Burned.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

CHARLESTON, March 15—The cotton warehouse and platform of Celv Brothers, at Greenville, S. C., was burned to-day with 12,000 bales of cotton. The fire was caused by a spark from a passing engine. Loss $55,000; insurance $30,000.

A Nice Story from Stirling.

It is very seldom (says the *Stirling Journal*) that anything of a novel or romantic nature happens to crop up in our historic town, but when any such extraordinary event occurs at once steps are taken to have the matter chronicled in these columns. Such an event has happened, and is about to be recorded. It is no ordinary elopement from the calm retreats in St. Mary's Wynd, or the still more exciting reading of the contents of a bundle of love-letters in an action of breach of promise, but a genuine romance, the full particulars of which have been gleaned from the best sources. About a month ago a young man, an Englishman, then resident in this town, was down at the railway station awaiting the arrival of a friend by train, and to while away the time walked to the extreme south end of the platform. In the semi-obscurity of the night he observed a lady, who had evidently strayed on the line, stand seemingly hesitating among the metals. The sound of an approaching train had paralyzed her with fear, but it roused him to action, for he rushed across the rails just in time to drag her from a terrible fate. The incident was not observed by any person on the adjacent platform, and the young Englishman assisted the lady to the nearest seat. She was closely veiled, but appeared to be young and extremely attractive, and dressed in an irreproachable style. In a faltering voice, with a foreign accent, she thanked him and asked him for his name. He gave her a scrap of paper with his name and address, and after again thanking him she hastily left the precincts of the station. Next afternoon he received a formal and unsigned letter of thanks from the fair anonyma enclosing a small yet beautiful diamond ring. Three weeks afterwards he received another unsigned note, with a magnificent gold star studded with diamonds and brilliants, and a patent creating him a noble and a member of the most illustrious and exalted order of Saint S——, in a kingdom whose shores lie on the Mediterranean. The new-made noble took the star to a well-known jeweller in Port street, who pronounced its value to far exceed that of his whole stock.

About a week ago the young Englishman received another note, signed, containing a banker's draft, and a couple of days later he left the town and departed for the South. His whereabouts are at present unknown, but our readers may rest assured an endeavor will be made to obtain for publication the sequel of this most interesting romance. May the conclusion be a pleasant and happy one for the hero! But—who is the lady?

The Mercury Took a Slip in the Tube.

[Brooklyn Eagle.]

A lady boarded Car No. 212 of the Franklin-avenue line recently, and sat directly opposite the stove. A gentleman was with her. After riding a block she told her escort that the heat was unbearable, and at her suggestion they moved nearer to the door. A passenger soon got on, and the conductor, coming in to collect his fare, she asked him to open a ventilator. He did so, politely. Soon the lady rapped on the door with her umbrella.

"Please turn the damper in the stove," said she.

"Certainly, madam," said the conductor, and the damper was turned.

In a few minutes the lady began fanning herself vigorously with a hymn-book, and remarked that "conductors didn't seem to have any judgment about heating cars."

At this juncture the conductor re-entered the car for another fare, and the lady said, with asperity:

"Conductor, I wish you would leave that door open. The heat from that stove is positively depressing."

"I am sorry to say so, madam, but there has been no fire in that stove today," said the conductor, and the thermometer instantly fell 20°.

Why He Caved.

[Detroit Free Press.]

A train over the Bay City road, bound into Detroit, picked up an old man at a flag-station, and when the conductor took up his fare he asked:

"How far could a person without money travel on this train?"

"About half a mile."

"And then you'd put 'em off?"

"Yes."

"Would you put a woman off?"

"I'd have to."

"Thanks. That settles it. My old woman didn't want me to go to town, and she said she'd foller me to the end of the earth. She'll try it, but she ain't got a cent to travel on, and when the conductor drops her along about here I can imagine the look——"

"Oh, in that case I should let her ride," interrupted the official.

"You would?"

"Yes."

"Then, if you'll kinder slack up when you cross at Skinner's I'll kinder drop off and hoof it back. I reckon she's got the bulge on me and I might as well cave."

An Unique Club-House.

Lexington, Ga., thinks that it has the unique club-house of the country. It was built by the members, who reared a log hut, chinking the spaces between the logs with clay. At one end they built an enormous fireplace. The club is composed of wealthy young men, and has a weekly supper. The day before the supper a big fire is built in the fireplace, and the next evening there is a splendid bed of live coals, and on this birds, fish, 'possum, oysters, and other good things are cooked under the personal supervision of Solicitor-General Howard, whose success in roasting birds and planking shad has given him an enviable reputation.

Old newspapers for sale at this office; price, 25 cents per hundred.

ENGLAND'S NAVY.

VAST SUMS NEEDED TO MAKE THE FLEET EFFICIENT.

Facts Finally Understood by the Authorities—New Rifles and Other Improvements in the Army.

A London telegram says: This must in the main be a naval letter, for the opening of Parliament has brought upon us a deluge of documents relating to the marine of old England. Early in the week a Manchester paper, whose editor is known to have excellent relations with some members of the Cabinet, announced that the Government was going to spend £100,000,000 on national defence, and that speedily. As a matter of fact the original scheme was to expend less than £100,000,000, and even the original £20,000,000 has been cut down to £12,000,000, while this is to be spread over four years. Thus the Government, which sacrificed Lord Charles Beresford on this very point, has had to accept Charley's irreducible minimum of three millions a year for four years, over and above the common yearly expenditure on the navy.

But it was not the lessons which Lord Charles and Admiral Hornby and Fleet-Admiral Symonds have been driving into the brains of the Admiralty folk which compelled the Government at last to give way; it was the lesson enforced by the experience of the naval manœuvres of last July and August, the conclusions from which were drawn on the spot for the New York *Times*. And those conclusions are now in every detail confirmed by the report of the three Admirals to whom the manœuvre reports were referred. It has been allowed to see the light at last in fragments. It is well that it has seen the light at all. But it has been published in part because the Admirals concerned, or one of them, would not have it burked, and it was known at the Admiralty that a copy had got into hands which would not have hesitated, if needful, to use it in the House of Commons. Now complaint is made that the whole has not been issued. I am unable to share the dissatisfaction. There must be discretion shown, and the report is full enough to pave the way for a thorough comprehension by the people of the issues at stake and the remedies proposed not by competent authorities only but by all authorities whatsoever.

The lesson of the manœuvre was that with her present fleet England could not make sure of beating one naval power, and would be sure to be beaten by two together—by almost any two. This has now been acknowledged on all hands. Yet, though both political parties have been over a score of years spending from £11,000,000 to £12,000,000 per annum on the navy, there is not a single voice raised in this country for the impeachment of those who, having had these vast sums at their almost unchecked disposal, have allowed them to be squandered, or worse, frittered away. Pot is as black as kettle, and so in our party system there is no room for the public prosecutor to intervene and punish the culprits who have played ducks and drakes with the national resources, and even exposed the empire to peril for years upon years.

The three experienced referee admirals, over and above the conclusion which the Times published last autumn, say respecting torpedo-boats, still a vexed question in the profession in spite of the money spent upon them by nearly all nations but your own, that they consider "the new type of 'violette' boat preferable" to any other sort "for sea-going battle-ships; they are better sea boats, and, being built of wood, are less liable to damage and more easily repaired than torpedo-boats." Think of that! Going back to wood! It is further said that the use of torpedo-boats as an inner line of blockade is undesirable, as they are calculated to cause much confusion and embarrassment "to their friends." Then they should not be used as dispatch-boats, but kept for their proper use. As regards torpedo-nets the admirals voice the whole feeling of the navy that as now fitted at any rate they cannot be carried by vessels under way without impairing their efficiency and compromising their safety. Can it be that, as the late Admiral Hobart Pasha was inclined to think, we shall go back to rope grummets for defence against automobile torpedoes?

The admirals mention but do not dwell upon the fact that it took us of the B squadron five days to coal the fleet in Lough Sevilly after the blockade had been broken. What with the proper system of coaling, or even such a makeshift as they have at Port Said, might not have been done in these five days in time of war? I have lost no opportunity of calling attention to the crying need on both sides of the Atlantic of a reserve of trained stokers, and, let me say, it gave me deep gratification to find that my last reference to the subject appeared in the same number as an appeal from your Admiral Porter on the subject. The reports from our captains show that it is a universal complaint that more stokers are required, that the proportion of second-class stokers is too high, and that the engine-room complement is insufficient both in quantity and quality.

But the case of the protected cruiser Warspite is cited as the strongest. The night we broke the blockade off Lough Sevilly she had to take thirty-six dockhands to assist in the stokehole at a time, as the Admirals remark, "When in real war every man would be required, at his station for battle." The first Sea Lord at the Admiralty has some remarks on the questions at issue which it would be cruelty to an old man to notice further than to say that his resignation seems to be called for, especially when he declares that we can successfully fight any one maritime nation. And is it to this that our boasted supremacy of the seas has come?

The Anson, one of our newest and biggest ships of the "Admiral" class, has, after waiting a twelvemonth and more, got her four big guns on board this week; but it will be months before they are fitted, and when they are, where is the guarantee that they will not burst as the Collingwood's guns did, or have their "liners" give way as the Rodney's guns had? I learn, by the way, that there are not enough stokers now at Portsmouth to clean and move the engines in the reserve ships.

A very large sum, it is reported in the service-clubs, will be added to the army expenditure for the next three years over and above the cost of rearming the troops with the new rifle. The bill embodying the volunteers when the militia is mobilized, which was objected to last year by some of the officers of the force and withdrawn, is to be again introduced, as the military authorities are convinced they cannot with their present powers form any efficient scheme of organization for home-defence. If over 200,000 of the troops available for home fighting are to be at liberty to take their names off when danger becomes imminent, we had better be without them and "face the music" of finding troops that can be depended upon. The militia want transport and they need to be taught shooting. Moreover, they are 30,000 under their proper strength, and money will be needed to bring them up to it. Altogether the neglect of past administrations seems likely to saddle us with £4,000,000 to £5,000,000 a year extra for some years to come, and nobody cares as the money is not needed in the present outlook in European affairs.

Major Savage, instructor in field fortification, delivered a useful lecture at Aldershot on Thursday—that excellent officer, Major-General Harrison, presiding. He pointed out that the intrenching tool is as necessary nowadays as the rifle, on account of the intensity of fire, and we cannot expect the infantryman to go to work heartily at field work in war time unless he is trained to perceive their value and use in peace time. Skobeleff's men learned by a loss of 50 per cent. at the Green Hills that it was better to carry a five-pound shovel than to trust to breastworks of the dead bodies of their comrades or so much earth as could be scooped up by hands or mess-tins. The work of the engineers should be in the defensive zone, and troops in attack ought to be equal to making their own shelter-trenches.

With Major Savage's remarks on Plevna I have no fault to find, but when he speaks of the defence of the plateau of Zewin, in Armenia, in 1877, he does not seem to realize that there was no necessity for any shelter trenches, though some were made round the exposed edge of the plateau, while on the sloping side of the plateau the glacis was so clear of all obstacles to fire that very slight trenches were necessary to sweep the approach for a mile. The slaughter of the Russians at Zewin was not from the shelter-trenches, but from the brows of cliffs commanding the paths by which alone access could be obtained from the east, and probably no more misleading analogy could be found than the comparison of an ordinary position in an ordinary country and the position at Zewin, which is a natural fort in many respects stronger than Kars in these days of long-range fire.

Those who have been at Zewin, especially those who were under fire there in 1877, will agree with me that such a site affords no lesson for an ordinary country. Major Waller, a smart engineer officer, pointed out in the discussion which followed "that during the Austrian manœuvres some years ago the trenches, when not large, stood out very plainly on the brows of hills. He said that the officer who had planned them had stood on his legs to do so, instead of lying down; and that his own assumption was not incorrect was proved by the fact that the men had subsequently to come out and lie down in front of the works." I have seen the same thing at more than one of our own field-days, regular and volunteer.

Colonel Yeatman-Biggs, of the artillery, pointed out that the irregularities generally noticeable in the outline of earthworks was of great service to the enemy's artillery in getting true range. Major Hutton, of the mounted infantry, spoke of the effect of masking gun positions by trees and branches stuck roughly in the ground, which he had noticed done during the Swiss manœuvres. General Harrison wound up the proceedings by saying that it was quite possible in the future for a general attacking a position to "grab" some central points in front, make a defensive line, and intrench those points, leaving a few men to hold them and use the remainder of his force on the flanks. Yes! but not only possible, my dear friend; probable in five cases out of ten, if only as a rallying point when the tide of life comes rolling back from the jaws of death. In fact, I do not see how an attack by day is now ever to be carried out without some such "grab" to begin with.

JAMES BROWN POTTER'S WIFE.

Divorce Proceedings in Progress Which Will Separate the Actress from Her Husband.

[Brooklyn Eagle.]

I am told on what seems good authority that Mr. James Brown Potter has, in technical language, put himself in the hands of his lawyer. This is not generally known—indeed, I believe this is the very first public mention of it. Such a step on his part has, of course, been anticipated for a long time, but no definite assertion had previously been made. Mr. Potter has been rather a puzzle to the public. It was known that while he was an enthusiastic supporter of his wife's amateur ambitions he was just as enthusiastically against her indulging them in a professional manner. Indeed, he invoked the power—and it is no inconsiderable one—of his entire family, including its bishops and other dignitaries, to dissuade her from this step.

But after she had taken it he stood by her, and while evidently anxious to discourage her and induce her to relinquish her theatrical schemes he did not permit any criticisms of her to be made in his presence and gave her very valuable countenance by continuing on friendly terms. He could not make up his mind to abandon her while she was still poor and making fruitless efforts. But Cleopatra put an end to all that. Financially it has been a great success, and Mrs. Potter has made money and will undoubtedly make more. That makes it certain that she is a definite fixture upon the stage. Her husband feels that she no longer needs him to stand by her. She has money of her own and can do without him, and all possibility of her eventually abandoning her career and returning to him is at an end.

This puts him in a very different position, not in the eyes of the world, perhaps, but in his own, and the chivalrous feelings which prompted him to stand by her as long as she was unsuccessful have no longer a *raison d'etre*. So, under the circumstances, I can very well understand his deciding upon a divorce. This is rather a new view to take upon Mr. Potter's attitude, but if it is a true one it is greatly to his credit, and it really seems to explain the apparent contradictions of his conduct. It is said that the plea for divorce will be made on the ground of desertion and incompatability and there will be no defence made, the divorce being allowed to go by default.

A Swell.

[Boston Courier.]

A small boy was calling the other day on one of his school friends, and fell into conversation with the mother of the latter. He was led to the remark that it was getting very hard to tell from the places in which people lived whether they are entitled to social consideration or not. Of course this is not the way in which he put it, but this is what it came to.

"Now there is Blank street," he said, you wouldn't think anybody that lives on Blank street was much, would you? But there's Mr. T., he lives there."

"And is Mr. T. much?" she asked, not unwilling to draw him out.

"Mr. T.?" he repeated, with the air of one who is overwhelmed with astonishment that so obvious a fact should have escaped the knowledge of anybody. "I should think he was! He's an awful swell. Why, he won't speak to my father."

The glimpse which a bit of naivete like this gives into the home life of the speaker is more instructive than pages of elaborate description.

A young woman of Ridgeway, Canada, has had the banns of matrimony between herself and two of her lovers read in the parish church, the clergyman having decided that she is free to choose between them at the altar. This is a new and startling departure in weddings.