THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

The DAILY DISPATCH is delivered to subscribers at FIFTY CENTS per month, payable to the carrier weekly or monthly. Mailed at $5 per annum, payable in advance; $3 for six months; $1.50 for three months; 50 cents for one month. Price per copy, 3 cents.

The WEEKLY DISPATCH issued and mailed in two parts at $1 per annum.

The SUNDAY DISPATCH at $1.50 per annum, or 75 cents for six months.

Subscriptions in all cases payable in advance, and no paper continued after the expiration of the time paid for. Send post-office money order, check, or registered letter. Currency sent by mail will be at the risk of the sender. Subscribers wishing their post-office changed must give their old as well as their new post-office. Sample copies free.

ADVERTISING RATES.

HALF INCH OR LESS.

1 time	$ 50
2 times	1 00
3 times	1 50
6 times	2 70
12 times	5 00
1 month	10 00
3 months	25 00
Business wants	50
Wanted situation, payable in advance (25 words or less)	25

Above rates are for "every day," or advertisements running consecutively.

Reading notices in reading matter type, five lines or less, $1; in nonpariel, leaded, five lines or less, 75 cents. All notices of excursions whatsoever will be classed as, and charged for, as reading notices.

Cards of rates for more space furnished on application.

All letters and telegrams must be addressed to THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

Rejected communications will not be returned.

All letters recommending candidates for office must be paid for to insure their publication. This is a long-standing rule of ours.

Resolutions of respect to deceased members passed by societies, corporations, associations, or other organizations, will be charged for as advertising matter.

UP-TOWN OFFICE, BROAD-STREET PHARMACY, NO. 519 EAST BROAD STREET.

MANCHESTER OFFICE, 1203 HULL STREET.

SUNDAY.....MARCH 25, 1900.

IN A CLOUD.

The South African military problem is again in a cloud, so to speak. Desultory fighting between British detached columns and small Boer commands is reported here and there, but for the rest it is evident that the press censor has once more put down the screws pretty tight on news of the more important British movements that are in progress, or in contemplation—if, indeed, the correspondents know what these are.

At last accounts the disposition of the main bodies of British troops was this: Buller's force was still in North Natal; Methuen was on the road between Kimberley and Mafeking; the army under the immediate eye of Lord Roberts was in the neighborhood of Bloemfontein, and Gatacre's command was operating in the Free State south of Bloemfontein. Here actual knowledge of what is going on ends.

It is true that the strategists in London and elsewhere, far away from the scene, have skilfully worked out a plan of final campaign, which they assure us the logic of the situation makes it patent that Roberts must follow, and it must be admitted that, theoretically, these gentlemen appear to have the matter down pretty fine. None the less, in dealing with Roberts it would be safer to wait until after the event before predicting.

One of Stonewall Jackson's "foot cavalry" is credited with having remarked during one of his chief's mystifying manoeuvres that "we never know what 'Old Jack' is going to do until he has done it." The remark was a decided bull, but it was pregnant with truth; and it seems to be applicable to "Bobs." No one knew what he was going to do in regard to Candahar until he had accomplished his object, and until he struck, the outside world was utterly in the dark as to his movements for the relief of Kimberley and against Cronje.

The Boers are said to be concentrating under Joubert at Kroonstad, which is in the Free State, north of Bloemfontein, and on the railway connecting the Free State capital with Pretoria, and it is confidently predicted in some quarters that the next big battle will be at or near this new Boer base. On the face of things that prediction would seem justifiable, were it not for the fact that it is asserted that Joubert wants to have a final trial of conclusions at Kroonstad, and Roberts has shown a pronounced disposition not to do what the enemy wanted him and expected him to do.

HELP FOR PROSECUTORS.

Encouraged by the flushed condition of the Treasury, especially by the money caught up by the land-grabbers' act, the Legislature indulged in many increased appropriations at its recent session. The aggregate of them is believed to be between $60,000 and $70,000. It will, however, take a keen accountant to ascertain the precise amount, inasmuch as increases may be authorized where the fact is not perfectly apparent upon the face of the bill. But however that may be, there is one appropriation which we wish the Legislature had made, but which it did not make, nor even so much as discuss.

That appropriation should have been to give help to Commonwealth's attorneys where such help is really needed to prosecute important criminal cases. A few thousand dollars put into the hands of the Governor or Attorney-General to be paid out in employing such counsel would be money admirably invested in the interests of the whole people of this Commonwealth. As things now stand, though a case may continue for weeks, though there may be scores of witnesses to examine, though there may be technicalities which require special and elaborate study upon the part of the representative of the Commonwealth, the prosecuting officer has no assistance given him by the Commonwealth. The only help he can hope for, the only help he can usually get, is from counsel employed by persons who feel an interest in the success of the prosecution. But no matter how able and influential under ordinary circumstances such counsel may be, the moment they appear beside the prosecuting officer their position is subject to attack—so much so, indeed, that it is a question whether the interests of the prosecution, in the average case, are advanced by such counsel. But what else can be done? Is the Commonwealth's Attorney to have no aid? Is he to contend single-handed against an immense array of counsel? Is he to be so overloaded with work that he may break down in health during the trial and thus overwhelm the very interests he is employed to protect?

The Dispatch has drawn—or attempted to draw—public attention to this subject frequently during a period of many years. The views we have here presented we have presented time and again. We have to lament that they have received so little consideration from the people and the Legislature. Usually the subject is dismissed with a remark that the attorneys for the Commonwealth are paid to do that work, and they ought to do it, or else employ their own help. When it is remembered how the pay of these officers has been cut down, such remark is not only without force, but comes near being absurd. Our own experience is that the prosecuting officers are always willing workers, and usually are quite successful in meeting the demands of the State upon their strength and professional skill, but there is a limit to the strongest man's endurance. That limit may be reached in a case which is extended from day to day, from week to week, where the prosecuting officer is burdened by a life and death responsibility, and withal, has to confront a force of counsel overwhelming in numbers and selected because of special skill. Many other States of this Union have made provision for such contingencies, and though Virginia may be slow to act, in the end we doubt not that she will do justice to her prosecuting officers and do justice to herself by making such appropriations as are necessary to give the help needed.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

In to-day's issue we print two letters discussing the constitutional convention question. One is from Judge Baker P. Lee; the other is from the Hon. John E. Massey.

We are glad to find this subject awakening public attention. When our State convention meets in Norfolk on May 26, it will be called upon to say whether it approves or disapproves the course of our legislative caucus in doing all it could to make this question a party issue. The Norfolk convention, in short, will show whether our party has been in earnest for thirty years past in denouncing the Underwood Constitution and in expressing a wish for it to be revised and amended.

Now is the time to go to work and abolish negro suffrage, as far as possible! That was the conclusion of our members of the Legislature, who for weeks and weeks thought this matter over and debated it in caucus time and again. The members of the Legislature did not think they could amend the Constitution properly by the piecemeal process; hence their conclusion that a constitutional convention should be called. The political aspect of the matter was fully considered by gentlemen who are very active in party affairs. A special election day was named to take the vote in order that county and congressional elections might not be interfered with. That done, the bill of Mr. Flood was passed, and it was resolved in caucus that an appeal should be made to the Democratic State Convention to make the calling of a constitutional convention a party question.

Now, remember that the pros and cons of this question were carefully and calmly considered by our legislative caucus behind closed doors. They had abundant information before them. Statements were made to them which never have appeared in print. And the conclusion reached was that thirty years of waiting, delaying, and postponing were enough, and that the time had come when the whites of Virginia ought to get together and disfranchise the negroes as far as possible. And that surely will be done—if the Norfolk convention will stand by the legislative caucus of the Democratic party.

SAD OHLAHOMA STORY.

Out in Oklahoma recently a farmer's wife, dazzled by the display of blonde hair in a burlesque opera company, went home and applied peroxide of hydrogen to her raven tresses, with the result that they assumed a brilliant golden hue. She was overjoyed at the success of the experiment, we are told, but her husband was not, and when he had convinced her that it was sacrilegious thus to interfere with the designs of Providence, and that the transformation did not enhance her personal pulchritude in his eyes, like a dutiful spouse, she applied to her metamorphosed locks a chemical warranted to restore them to their original color.

But, alack, and alas! Instead of doing that the chemical turned her hair a vivid green. The husband was so shocked by her appearance that his mind became unhinged, he would foam at the mouth every time she approached him, and finally had to be taken to a lunatic asylum. In the meantime, the lady's neighbors are, we suppose, watching developments—that is, waiting to see how far her experience will coincide, in the matter of shifting colors of her hair, with that of Tittlebat Titmouse.

They say that Benson McKee, a large stock farmer of New Mexico, has "money to wear," if not to burn. He recently created a mild sensation when he went into Chicago with a train-load of horses. On all his clothes he wore gold coins for buttons. In sooth, he was literally spangled with money. His great coat was fastened with double eagles, his vest with $5 pieces, and his coat had eagles glistening in the button-holes and above the tails. From a chain, attached to a pin in his necktie, hung a $3 "gold-piece."

The railroad men opened their eyes with astonishment when they saw this gayly-bedecked citizen, who sauntered about with the utmost complacency. When asked why he thus transformed himself into a walking treasury, he said: "The idea of wearing gold-pieces for buttons is only an eccentricity of mine, and as the money is my own, I see no reason why I cannot wear it, if I please."

Doubtless there are a few men who wonder if McKee has a wife, and if she willingly consents to sew on these golden buttons.

Many of the papers in this State, and not a few beyond our borders, in eloquent terms have expressed regret at the illness of Dr. Hunter McGuire, and hopes that soon he may be restored to his great work on behalf of suffering humanity.

We have a letter questioning whether the name of Lord Pauncefote is pronounced as if written "Pawnsfoat," as we stated last Sunday. In reply, we have only to say that our information came from Lord Pauncefote's private secretary.

LAWYERS AND DOCTORS.

If the views of the editor of the Chicago Times Herald count for aught—and we think they do—most young men would better make up their minds to tackle business in earnest and let the "learned professions go." Certainly none but the most self-confident and tenacious should seek to follow those walks in life which lead one outside the commercial world, for our contemporary is of opinion that the "polite pursuits," though very pleasant and honorable, are daily growing more unremunerative. Indeed, it makes the discouraging and homely remark that "only elbow room remains at the top, while there is scant standing-room at the bottom."

These words of warning are particularly directed to those who aspire to be lawyers and doctors. And to the former, the Herald, speaking for Chicago alone, but nevertheless coming very near home to all localities, says there is not enough legitimate business to go around among the attorneys, and that many are compelled to eke out existence by peddling insurance and selling real-estate on commission.

It is estimated that out of a total of 4,000 lawyers in Chicago, 500 are handling the litigation of the community, and only about 250 are making $5,000 or over each year. While the business of the courts has not shown any marked increase, there is a constant influx of young lawyers from the colleges and rural districts.

If we mistake not, pretty much the same conditions prevail everywhere, and the way of the young attorney is dark and thorny. His one inspiration—and a very pleasing one it is—buoys him with the hope that while few are chosen, he may possibly become one of them.

Our contemporary, which, by the way, takes a much more gloomy view of the matter than we do, even goes so far as to say that, "as a matter of fact, almost any artisan now commands a better annual income than three-fourths of the lawyers and doctors, while the mercantile pursuits are much more profitable. This statement is not calculated to stimulate those with professional aspirations, and yet the average man would vastly prefer being a lawyer or doctor to being an artisan. As we take it, the time has come when the professions, like pretty much every other money-making vocation, have ceased to be "flowery beds of ease" and now demand unceasing attention, patience, and perseverance.

The outlook for the young doctors is hardly more cheerful than that for their legal brethren. Chicago has about 4,000 of these disciples of Aesculapius, or one for every 500 inhabitants. Wealth does not come to them in hunks, nor does it even threaten its visitations at first. True, sickness continues, and ever will continue, even when lawsuits have ended, but doctors' bills are not always promptly paid, nor do the young men get a fair proportion of the patients.

It seems to us that these hints are well worthy of consideration. Of course, we must always have physicians, and it looks, too, as if we shall always need the lawyers, but at present the supply of both apparently exceeds the demand, or favoritism has almost made the professions monopolistic. And so the youngsters have to suffer and wait. The older ones say there is a kind of Providence which tempers the wind to the shorn professional lambs, and really it seems so, though the patience of the probationers is severely taxed. In short, their ambitions must be supplemented by unflagging labor, tenacity of purpose, and an irresistible determination to plant their "funny bones" in that very limited elbow room which still remains at the top.

A certain club of Baltimore, which has 700 members, and keeps open during the day only, is said to serve one of the best mid-day meals which can be procured in this country. Not only may the epicurean get the finest of food there, but often he can find dishes which seldom are seen elsewhere. "Muskrat a la terrapin" is said to be a feature of its menu, and it is stated that so popular has this amphibious "varmint" become that the price of muskrats has greatly increased on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

We are told that the muskrat is the most cleanly of animals; that when not in the water he delights in rolling in clean, white sand; in short, that he, too, is one of Nature's epicures. As to his odor, the Baltimore American says special care must be taken in skinning, cleansing, and preparing him for the table. If that feat be successfully accomplished, the little animal is ready for the attention of the cook, and then for the appetites of those who have the courage to eat it.

The club, we are told, also serves the genuine old-time cornbread in pones—that is, whenever the real cornmeal can be procured. The ingredients of these pones are cornmeal, eggs, salt, and water, and the best quality of butter. No buttermilk is used, and the best cornbread authority says that the use of baking-powder is "ruinous."

We might mention other delightful things which are served at this restaurant, but stop at the cornbread and muskrat.

According to advices from Rome, Don Carlos, the pretender to the Spanish throne, whose machinations and expectations had so often disquieted Spain, has "relinquished his Spanish citizenship," and declares himself an Austrian subject.

As the world was under the impression that the Spanish people had long since "sent Don Carlos" his resignation as a Spanish citizen, his latest performance will probably be looked upon as somewhat perfunctory. However, the Don came, perhaps, to a realization that he was dropping out of sight, and hit upon the only practical plan for again advertising himself.

Notwithstanding conflicting reports upon the subject, the New York Tribune says the control of the Chesapeake and Ohio and Norfolk and Western Railway companies has passed into the hands of a combination, the dominant factors of which are the Pennsylvania and the New York Central Railroad companies. Their object, according to the Tribune, is to prevent rate-cutting. And it adds that it is likely that the Southern Railroad Company, also, will soon be brought under the influences of the combination. It is further understood, we believe, that the Baltimore and Ohio is, to some extent, controlled by the same people.

And now the Metropolitan Magazine has a story from the pen of John Regnault Ellyson. It appears in the April No., and is entitled "Two Voices." It is written in a curious serio-comic vein, and describes the two voices of a society woman—one, that which she used in speaking to her husband and the servants; the other used by her when entertaining welcome company.

The Rev. Mr. Sheldon's share of the profits of running the Topeka Capital for a week as a "Christian daily" amount, it is said, to between $10,000 and $20,000.

The fifth annual Anglo-American chess match, played by cable, is on. Pillsbury is one of the players for this country.

The Open Door.

While powers great
Do advocate
With emphasis galore,
What one and all
Are pleased to call,
For short, "the open door."

We here suggest
That it were best,
If they'd approval win,
To open wide
That door whence tide
Of justice would flow in.

Her Favorite.

My wife approves the bike, of course,
As she has oft confessed,
But when I asked her yesterday
Which wheel she liked the best,

It gave me joy to hear her lips
This preference reveal—
"My first consideration is,
My dear, our household weal."

Thought It Reproachful.

On the wall opposite the chairs in a barber's establishment was glaringly revealed the motto: "Cleanliness is next to godliness." As a rather seedy-looking clergyman vacated one of the chairs the barber shouted "Next," and a dapper-looking youth sprang forward to take the throne of torture.

With a glance at the sign the clergyman turned to the tonsor, and in a mild tone of remonstrance, remarked:

"I hope, sir, that you do not intend that as a reproach."

Rough on the Janitor.

Janitor (to tenant about entering office-building): Have you heard the news?

Tenant: What news?

Janitor: Why, a burglar got in here last night and cleaned out the whole building.

Tenant: Hurrah for him! I hope you'll profit by his example.

Political Wisdom.

Wife: Benjamin, if it is true, as I have often heard you say, that in this country the office always seeks the man, why do you make such conspicuous efforts to secure it?

Husband: Because, Abigail, if I didn't get up and show myself, how would the office know that I was the man?

An Out-and-Out Fact.

Wife: Who would ever have thought, John, that the problem of daily subsistence would ever become such a serious one to us? We are actually out of everything.

Husband: Oh, no, we're not, Maria, if we were out of debt we wouldn't be out of everything.

In Love's Storm Centre.

Dumbleton: I notice that Fassett has been very attentive to Miss Frills lately; I begin to think he is seriously smitten.

Flasher: Not as seriously as he will be when he comes to interview the old gentleman.

A Suspicious Symptom.

"I am really afraid your friend, Miss Poser, is intent on making her debut in spectacular drama."

"What makes you think so?"

"I heard her say yesterday that she had nothing to wear."

Feared Post-Marital Development.

"I think you make a great mistake in deciding not to press your suit for the hand of Miss Strong. You do not fully estimate her strength of character. She is a lady of remarkable reserve power."

"That's just what I'm afraid of."

Before and After.

Mrs. Slick: Hasty marriages do not always prove unfortunate. My husband and I only met once before we were married.

Mrs. Quick (presumably without reflection): That's nothing. My husband and I haven't met much oftener since.

Endorsed.

"I am sure I can't account for Miss Thistle's attachment for young Beggs; to me it seems like a blind infatuation."

"That's right; I heard him say this very morning that she was 'out of sight.'"

An Honest Confession.

Visitor: There seems to be some discussion as to the dimensions of your city. What is the area of Chicago proper?

Chicagoan: Excuse me; but we make no pretensions to having that kind of city.

It should be no trouble for a young lady with abundant means to husband her resources.

Microbes do not encourage isolation; they generally travel in a body.

"Time is the best medicine," since it relieves many an anxious creditor.

Ten to One.

(Written for the Dispatch.)

'Tis done. Let England rise in might
And roar with riotous delight;
For 'round the earth the tidings run:
Great Britain has redeemed the past;
For she has beat the Boers at last—
With odds of only ten to one.

"God save the Queen!" oh, hear her sing!
And hear the bells of St. Paul's ring!
Joy thrills the heart of England's son.
Let shouts, and cheers, and tumult rise;
Let fireworks hit the startled skies—
The odds were only ten to one.

Give thanks unto the Lord of Hosts,
Who smiles upon His people's boasts—
What England wills, that shall be done.
The imperial prestige, almost lost,
Must be maintained at any cost—
With British odds of ten to one.

The Boers your mandate have defied—
Too much for the imperial pride!
Where is the imperial conscience gone?
Go, bathe your iron in the blood;
Wade ankle-deep the crimson flood;
Use well your odds of ten to one.

Blot out the little Afric State,
And show that Britain still is Great.
Suffer no quarter; mercy, none.
Prove by example; seize the hour
To give an instance of your power,
When British odds are ten to one.

And shall those farmers die in vain?
Mark well, their death is freedom's gain;
For so the fates their threads have spun;
With tears and fire shall man recall
The matchless glory of their fall,
When British odds were ten to one.

E. W. MARSHALL.

Old papers for sale at the Dispatch Office.

The Richmond Dispatch's Home Study Circle.

TWENTY LESSONS IN FRENCH CONVERSATION.

(Copyright, 1900, by Seymour Eaton.)

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH'S HOME STUDY CIRCLE: DIRECTED BY PROFESSOR SEYMOUR EATON.

These lessons have been prepared for the Dispatch's Home Study Circle by Prof. Benno Kirschbaum of Philadelphia. They are intended primarily for Americans who purpose attending the Paris exposition. The lessons include (1) common French words and phrases, (2) easy conversation and (3) simple reading lessons.

LESSON No. 6. SIXIÈME LEÇON.

Hints on Pronunciation.

1. We have in French diphthongs as well as in English. The French diphthongs, however, are formed and sounded altogether differently. A plain rule, therefore, is, that a diphthong is formed in French by the double vowel sound, slightly extended by the last vowel.

The following five diphthongs require our special attention:

ay sounds like the English *ay-ee* in *ayant* (having); ayee-yang.

oi sounds like the English *wah*, as in *miroir* (mirror); meer-wahr.

ui sounds like the English *wee*, as in *lui* (to him, her, it); lwee.

oy sounds like the English *wah-ee*, as in *royal* (royal); rwah-yal.

uy sounds like the English *wee-ee*, as in *essuyer* (to wipe); ess-wee-ee-a.

To pay; payer; pay-ee-a.
I drink; je bois; zjuh-bwah.
Cooked; cuit; kwee.
Foyer; foyer; fwah-ee-a.
Night; nuit; nwee.

Note—The student will do well to repeat these and previous sounds; those of the compound vowels and the nasal sounds over and over again until he is thoroughly familiar with them.

Every new lesson should be preceded by a full rehearsal of the entire text and translation, including the pronunciation, of all previous ones. Compare each translation of the English text with the French reading exercise, and vice versa. Write it out again and again until thoroughly familiar with the spelling of words and construction. To work systematically, translate the exercise of one language into the other, and when thoroughly familiar with both compare according to the text given in each lesson.

A Few Things to Remember.

The following will serve as an incomplete, though as far as possible practical guide for the gender of feminine nouns. There is no positive, fixed rule for genders in French. The best and only way to determine it is to commit each noun to memory, with its proper article. (See lesson No. 5.)

(a) Nouns signifying woman in all her conditions are feminine, as:
Mother; la mère; mair.
Wife; l'épouse; lay-pooz; (also femme); fahm.
Cousin; la cousine; koo-zeen.

(b) Names of females of animals:
Cat; la chatte; shatt.
Ewe; la brebis; breb-ee.
Mare; la jument; zhuh-mong.

(c) Names of qualities, virtues, vices are usually feminine, though the word "vice" (vice) is masculine and the word "virtue" (vertu) is feminine.
Beauty; la beauté; boh-tay.
Goodness; la bonté; bong-tay.
Laziness; la paresse; pah-ress.

Note—There are a few exceptions, however, to this last rule.

(d) Names of fruits are, with few exceptions, also feminine:
Cherry; la cerise; say-reez.
Orange; la orange; o-rahnge.
Apple; la pomme; pom.

(e) Nouns ending in an "e" mute are usually feminine, with but some few exceptions:
Earth; la terre; tairr.
River; la rivière; ree-vee-air.
Experience; l'expérience; l'ex-pay-ree-once.

Note—The proper articles to use with the above mentioned and all feminine nouns are *la, the* (lah); *une, one, a* or *an* (oon). Those to be used with the masculine nouns given in lesson 5, and all masculine nouns, are: *le, the* (luh); *un, a* one, or *an* (uhn)

Memory Exercises.

1. Will you tell me?
Voulez-vous me dire?
Voo-lay-voo muh deer.
2. I want to do it.
Je veux le faire.
Zhuh vuh luh fair.
3. Do you understand it?
Le comprenez-vous?
Luh com-pren-nay voo.
4. Yes, I understand it.
Oui, je le comprends.
Wee, zhuh luh com-prong.
5. He has sent them a letter.
Il leur a envoye une lettre.
Eel luhr ah eng-vwa-yay oon lettr.

Note—The student will note in these sentences the peculiarity of French construction. This construction cannot be altered, and must therefore be used exactly as given. There are idiomatic constructions and phrases peculiar to the language and should be learned by heart. Remember, then, that the French say: Will you me tell? He to him has written. He to them has sent a letter, etc., etc.

6. What is the day of the week?
Quel est le jour de la semaine?
Kell a luh zhoor ——
7. We have a holiday to-day; or, to-day is a holiday.
Nous avons congé aujourd'hui.
Nooz avong kong-zhay ——
8. To-morrow will be the last day of the month.
Ce sera demain le dernier jour du mois.
Suh s'rah —— mwah.
9. What day of the month was yesterday?
Quel était hier le quantième du mois?
—— ay-tay —— kahng-tee-yehm ——
10. It is the 14th.
C'est le quatorze.
Say luh katorz.
11. I think it is the 21st.
C'est, je crois, le vingt et un.
—— krwah vahn-tay-uhng.
12. Are you sure?
En êtes-vous sûr?
Ong nett voo suur.

Note—The French do not use the ordinal numbers to express dates, chapters, pages, etc. They simply place a cardinal number after the noun, as:

13. To-day is the 17th.
C'est aujourd'hui le dix-sept.
—— dees sett.
14. The eleventh chapter.
Chapitre onze.
Sha-peetr ongz.
15. The 120th page.
Page cent vingt.
Pahzh song vang.
16. Once; une fois; —— fwah.
Twice; deux fois; duh ——
Three times; trois fois; trwah ——
The 19th; le dix-neuf (date); —— deez-nuff.
The 36th; le trente-six; —— traungt seess.
The first; le premier; —— prem-yay (the only exception to the above note).
The last; le dernier; —— dair-nee-ay.
The middle; le milieu; —— mee-lyew.
The interior; l'intérieur; l'ang-tay-ree-euhr.
The exterior; l'extérieur; l'ex-tay-ree-euhr.
17. The church; l'église; lay gleeze.
The English church; l'église anglaise; —— ang-glaiz.
18. Is there an American church?
Y a-t-il une église américaine?
—— ah-may-ree-ken.
19. The cathedral of Notre-Dame.
La cathédral de Notre-Dame.
—— katay-drahl duh notr-dahm.
20. The Church of the Madeleine.
L'église de la Madeleine.
Lay-gleez duh lah mad-lenn.
21. Service; l'office; lof-feess.
22. When do they have service at church?
A quelle heure fait-on l'office dans l'église?
23. High mass; la grand' messe; lah grahng mess.
Afternoon service; les vêpres; lay vepr.
Evening service; l'office du soir; —— doo swahr.
24. The protestant church; l'église protestante; —— pro-tess-tahngt.
The catholic church; l'église catholique; —— ka-to-leek.

Reading Lesson.

The following is the proper translation of the last French exercise:

(1) We breakfast at half-past 8. (2) I am not hungry. (3) Some mush. (4) This coffee is not hot. (5) Give me some soft-boiled eggs. (6) A beefsteak, rare, and some toast. (7) Some browned potatoes. (8) Some coffee cakes and some coffee with milk. (9) My plate is not clean. (10) Give me another one. (11) Show me your umbrella. (12) Have you bought a brown hat? (13) Where can I get some flowers? (14) Are these French gloves or German gloves? (15) Of what color is your cloak?

Vocabulary.—Au gratin; breaded. Emporter; to take away. Gigot; leg. Gelée; jelly. Peu; little. Venez; come. Tant mieux; so much the better. Légumes; vegetables. Délicieux; delicious. Bonnes (fem. plur.); good. Pension; boarding house. Tenues (fem. plur.); kept. Tout; all. Poires; pears. Achète; buys. Marchand; merchant. Belles (fem. plur.); fine. Servir; to serve. Ce, cet; this. La paresse; idleness. Vices; vices. Chez; at the house of. Bon (masc. sing.); good. Chambres; rooms. Toutes (fem. plur.); all.

Read and translate into English:

(1) On paye trois dollars par jour dans cet hôtel. (2) La paresse est la mère de tous les vices. (3) Les oranges et les poires que l'on achète chez ce marchand sont belles et bonnes. (4) Les chambres de cette pension sont bien grandes. (5) Elles sont très commodes (convenient). (6) Je vais à la grand' messe à la cathédrale. (7) Venez (come) avec moi. (8) Voulez-vous m'accompagner? (9) On parle anglais dans ce restaurant. (10) Tant mieux. (11) Prendrez-vous de la viande et des légumes? (12) Ce poulet frit est délicieux. (13) Envoyez-nous deux cotelettes de veau au gratin. (14) Ce rosbif est trop peu cuit. (15) Emportez-le. (16) Un gigot de mouton farci et de la gelée.

Note—The English translation of this exercise will be found in the following lesson, which will be published next Sunday.

Recent Scientific Discoveries.

(Copyright, 1900, by Seymour Eaton.)

Note—These papers on Practical Science have been prepared for the Dispatch's Home Study Circle by Professor William J. Hopkins, of Drexel Institute.

II.—WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

(Continued.)

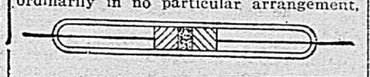
The Coherer.

The spark-gap detector used by Hertz was extremely simple, but of limited sensitiveness, failing to respond at distances greater than about 200 feet. The first requisite, therefore, to make space telegraphy of practical value was a detector which should be reliable and sufficiently sensitive to respond at a distance of miles instead of yards. This was found in the "coherer," which has been ascribed to Branly, although it was known and used in one form or another long before his work upon it.

Since the first use of the microphone as a telephone transmitter, the fact was well-known that a simple microphone contact, like the Blake, if the prints were both made of metal, became faintly welded together under the action of the current; and this, a defect in a telephone, was one of the principal reasons for the use of carbon. A single metallic contact of this sort is the form of coherer which has been used by Lodge. Hughes noticed this peculiar sensitiveness of a microphonic contact, either single or multiple, to a discharge through it, and the same effect appears to have been observed by others. Onesti, however, seems to have been the first to make use of this property, and Branly increased the sensitiveness of the coherer by modifications in the design. As at present used, the coherer consists of a small glass tube, in which metallic pistons fit tightly. The space between these pistons—one-twentieth to one-quarter of an inch—is filled somewhat loosely with filings of metal. The ends of the pistons are smeared with mercury, and the filings, which must be sharp, are worked up with a little mercury for the best results. In addition to this Marconi has used coherers in which the space between the pistons is practically or wholly exhausted of air. Filings of any metal will work, but the best results are obtained with a mixture of about 96 per cent. nickel and 4 per cent. silver. The tightness with which they are packed in the tube must be carefully adjusted by moving the pistons.

Action of Coherer.

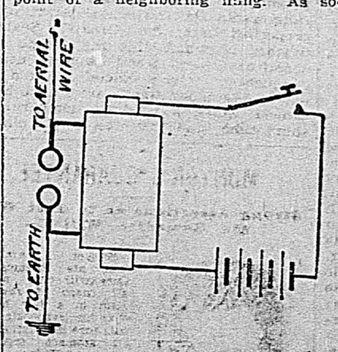
When a discharge of electricity passes through the mass of filings, which are ordinarily in no particular arrangement,



COHERER.

but lying in random positions, the filings at once marshal themselves in regular order, point to point, and the chains thus established are made more perfect by the slight welding action at the contact. The resistance of the mass of filings, which before was infinite, becomes finite—from 100 ohms to 500 ohms—and if a battery is in connection with the coherer a current may be made to pass and actuate a relay.

The cause of this behavior of the filings is probably the well-known action of a static charge, which is most intense at sharp points. Each individual filing, therefore, is most intensely and oppositely charged by induction at opposite sharp points, and each positively charged point is attracted to the negatively charged point of a neighboring filing. As soon



TRANSMITTING CIRCUIT.

as contact occurs the charge passes and welds the points, the whole action being practically instantaneous.

To restore the coherer to its sensitive condition these welds must be broken. This is actually accomplished by causing the tongue of a vibrator or buzzer to tap the tube and shake up the filings. The same thing may be effected by rotating the coherer or by placing it in a rapidly alternating magnetic field.

Sensitiveness of the Coherer.

The extraordinary sensitiveness of the coherer may be dimly appreciated when the conditions under which it works are known. It has been computed by Abbott that, working at a distance of thirty-five miles—it has responded to more than twice that distance—the coherer has an efficiency of only one five hundreth-millionth of 1 per cent. That is, it uses only one fifty-billionth of the energy put in at the transmitting end. Even then the sensitiveness will probably be increased.

Maroni's System.

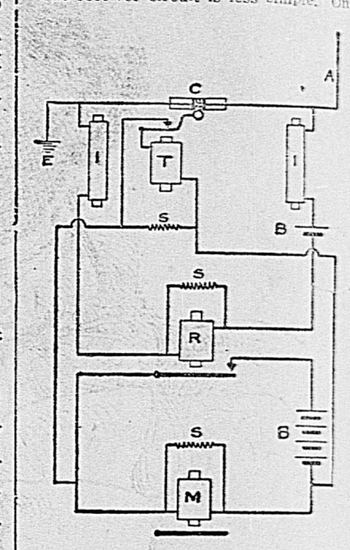
The system employed by Marconi is shown in the diagrams. The simplest form of transmitting device consists of an induction coil or other alternator, with spark-gap in the secondary and battery, and key in the primary. When the key is closed a stream of sparks passes across the gap, setting up corresponding ether waves, which radiate in all directions, and are detected by the receiving apparatus.

The spark-gap may be simple, or a Righi oscillator may be used, in which two larger brass balls, very close together, are placed between the terminal balls of the coil.

To send these waves in any particular direction a parabolic reflector of metal is so placed that the spark-gap is at the focus, and the open side of the reflector points in the desired direction. So far as has yet been announced, no distance greater than two miles has been covered by the use of reflectors. The receiver for directed waves has a similar reflector with the coherer in the focus, and neither transmitter nor receiver is connected with a vertical wire.

In the method by which the greatest success has been attained, however, Marconi uses a vertical wire of height adjusted to the distance over which the signals are to be sent. One side of the spark-gap is connected to the vertical wire, the other to earth.

The receiver circuit is less simple. One



RECEIVING CIRCUIT.

A, aerial wire; BB, batteries; C, coherer; E, earth connection; II, inductive resistance; M, Morse printer; R, relay; SSS, non-inductive shunts; T, tapper.

side of the coherer is connected to the vertical wire, the other side to earth; and the coherer is also included in the circuit of a local battery and sensitive relay.

When a discharge passes through the coherer its resistance is so far lowered that the local battery actuates the relay. This, in turn, closes another circuit, in which is a Morse recorder or other registering instrument. The tipper is also connected in this second local circuit, and keeps up its hammering on the coherer so long as the discharge is passing. Every contact is shunted by a non-inductive resistance to prevent sparking.

The light armature of the relay is in more or less continuous vibration, but the heavy armature of the Morse instrument does not respond so quickly, and remains down as long as the transmitting key is closed, recording the regular Morse characters.

ORLEANS HAS NARROW ESCAPE.

Attacked by a Bear, Which He Kills Just in Time.

SEVILLE, SPAIN, March 24.—The Duke of Orleans, who is travelling in the South of Spain, participated in a wild-bear hunt near here recently. He had a narrow escape.

The bear attacked him, inflicting a wound in his leg, but the Duke killed him before he could do further injury. The Duke's wound is slight.

To secure the original witch hazel salve, ask for DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve, well-known as a certain cure for piles and skin diseases. Beware of worthless counterfeits. They are dangerous. Bedeker Brothers, T. A. Miller.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES.

"HONEST SPECULATION."—MY PLAN of "SAFE SPECULATION" has made $1,000 on a $100 investment in 30 days. Send for free particulars; also, Customer and Bank Reference. RICHARD JONES, Stocks and Grain, 40 Exchange Place, New York city. mh 25-1t

WANTED, COMPETENT MAN WITH $2,500 cash to Establish and Carry on Branch Business; $150 per month and expenses; also, extra percentage; permanent opening; references required. Address CHARLES MILLER, Boyce Building, Chicago. mh 25-1t

FOR SALE.

A RETAIL GROCERY BUSINESS Doing a Cash Business of $30,000 per annum. Good location, cheap rent. Owner has to leave the city. A bargain to be had. Address A. Y. C., care Dispatch office. mh 25-1t

FOR SALE.

A WELL-ESTABLISHED PAWNBROKER BUSINESS. I have been in business for a number of years and have worked up a good trade; but, on account of very bad health, I am obliged to retire, and will sell cheap. For further particulars, call or write to the NEWPORT NEWS LOAN OFFICE. mh 20-1w Newport News, Va.

FOR SALE.

SPLENDID HARDWARE BUSINESS. ENTIRE STOCK AS INVENTORIED, having an established trade with the leading builders, manufacturers, blacksmiths, country merchants, and a good, reliable retail trade. Stock, with fixtures, will approximate $8,000 to $10,000, all good. Inspection invited and correspondence solicited only from parties meaning business. Address CHARLES A ROSE, Real Estate Office, mh 18,20,23&25-4t Richmond, Va.

PROPOSALS.

NOTICE.

SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED until 12 o'clock TUESDAY, March 27, 1900, for FURNISHING THE PENITENTIARY WITH SUPPLIES FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS.

Blanks can be had by applying to G. M. HELMS, Superintendent. mh 25-1t

FERTILIZERS.

FERTILIZERS THAT PAY IN ALL SEASONS—Pure Bonemeal, Flesh Blood, and Bone. BICKERSTAFF'S ANIMAL BONE FERTILIZERS, for all crops. I will make special mixtures of any analysis desired. Samples and prices 1803 East Main street, Richmond. mh 25-2m

Cards, Bill-Heads, Statements, Letter-Heads, Note-Heads, Circulars, Handbills, Dodgers, &c., printed by the Dispatch Company at low prices. Will give you good work at the same prices you pay for inferior work. Send us your orders and we will guarantee satisfaction in every particular.