

**PERSONAL AND IMPERSONAL.**

The Merve chiefs have resolved to resist the Russians to the last. The elders have gone to Candahar to seek aid.

Invitations bearing French and American signatures have been issued for a monetary conference to begin on the 19th of April.

King John, of Abyssinia has decided to send an important mission to Egypt to return thanks for the favorable reception of his envoys by the Khedive.

It is a fact worthy of note that most great composers have been childless. Handel, Hadyn, Beethoven, Corelli, Pergolesi, Rossini, Spontini, Auber, and Schumann are instances.

The marquis of Hartington, secretary for India, says the government's decision in regard to Candahar was taken with full knowledge of the probable success of the Russians at Geok-Teppe.

The emperor of Japan has broken through traditional etiquette to such a degree as greatly to astonish his people. He has actually dined on board a vessel commanded by the duke of Genoa.

It is rumored that a conference of European socialists will be held in Brussels, next May, for the purpose of laying the foundations for an international union to take combined action in furtherance of their aims.

Miss Isabella Bird, the Japanese traveler, is described as "a tiny, frail-looking creature, with great, startled eyes." One wonders at the spirit and courage she had to explore the strange regions without any lady companion.

The residents of Staten Island will, by the 1st of June next, have water works, which will have a capacity for supplying 1,000,000 gallons of water daily. For the present the water supply will be obtained from the head of Bodine's pond, on the north shore.

The first division, 23 miles in length, of the railroad in Yezo, the northern island of Japan, has been opened for traffic, and is already run at a profit. It cost \$20,000 per mile, including rolling stock, repair shops, and everything. It is the first American railroad in Asia.

Alphonso and Christina of Spain are now living quietly and simply at their palace of La Granja. They walk, hunt, and amuse themselves placidly. The royal home is accessible to all petitioners, and the greatest pleasure of the king seems to be in sending them away satisfied.

The largest library in the world, at Paris, contains many curious and interesting works. Among them may be found a Chinese chart of the heavens, made about 600 years B. C. In this chart about 1,450 stars are correctly inserted as corroborated by the observation of modern astronomers.

The Suez Canal seems to be an immensely profitable enterprise. Its working expenses, according to the report for the past year, were only about ten per cent. of the gross receipts. The receipts were over 42,000,000 francs; expenses about 4,500,000 francs; leaving the balance for interest and dividends.

The proprietors of the Paris *Marseillaise* have been sentenced to pay a fine of 1,000 francs for defaming the army and ennobling regicide. The manager of the paper was sentenced to one year's imprisonment and a fine of 2,000 francs, and General Cluseret has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment and a fine of 3,000 francs.

A statistician in *Harpers Magazine* shows that, as to the total valuation of the national wealth, the United States stands third, Great Britain and France only leading. In average annual income, per inhabitant, this country rivals Great Britain and leads all others. In annual accumulations we are far ahead of all. At present the republic is growing rich at the rate of \$2,300,000 a day.

It is not the last of George Washington's body servants, this time, but a "cullud pusion" whose relations to the great general, humble as they were, are well attested. There has just died in Washington an ancient negro woman, so ancient that she was born in 1766, who was in her youth a slave of Washington's and was one of the number manumitted by the general's will. It is now promised that this is positively the very last of that great army of Africans who have been known in modern history as the body-guard of the father of his country.

The Greenbackers are working hard for the purpose of holding the balance of power in the next House. Weaver and Gillette, whose terms soon expire, will devote their energies to keeping the forces organized and insist that all Greenbackers shall vote together, working apart from either party. The Republicans lack one of the number necessary to organize the House, and the Greenbackers will force the Democrats to join them. Leading Republicans, however, say that Brumim, of Pennsylvania, and Fort of Missouri, will surely vote with them.

A Washington correspondent says he rode down from the capitol, the other day, in a five-cent omnibus in which the only other passenger was the vice president of the United States. Sir Edward Thornton, the British minister, whose salary, besides his income, is over \$25,000 a year, walks every day from his home away beyond the White House, to the Capitol, a distance of nearly three miles. He is a trim, modest-looking man with a business air and a quick, nervous step. Mr. Hill, of Colorado, who is worth a million or two, walks, while all around him dash coaches of men who live on their congressional salary.

Secretary Evarts has caused to be made fac similes of the small desk upon which Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, which was presented to the United States last spring by Thomas Jefferson Coolidge, of Boston. The fac-similes are made of mahogany, and to be given to Senators Dawes, of Massachusetts, and Tucker, of Virginia, as mementos of the part they took in the presentation ceremonies. It isn't stated from what fund Mr. Evarts will pay for these desks. If he goes into the manufacture at all, then every citizen of the United States who wants one of these desks is surely entitled to it. Write Evarts for one—*Chicago Times*.

Dr. Brusch, who has risen to the highest rank in the German Foreign Office, has no noble birth to recommend him. He began life as dragoman to the Prussian Consulate at Constantinople, and there thoroughly mastered the intricacies of the Eastern imbroglio. He studied politics with equal success when attached to the legations at Stamboul and St. Petersburg, and, when the last Turco-Russian war began, Bismarck summoned him to Berlin and relied upon him for information on the changing phases of the Eastern question. Before Bismarck's rule only aristocrats were permitted to enter the ranks of the Prussian Diplomatic Corps. Now there are many commoners holding the highest offices.

There is no question that the postal telegraph scheme is growing in favor with merchants and the general public. There are certain economic and administrative difficulties in the way of the successful operation of the telegraph under our unreformed Civil Service, but the growth of public sentiment in opposition to monopolies has been so rapid of late that the number for a postal telegraph may now be counted by the hundred when a few months ago they could not be counted by tens. The feeling is growing that the only safe repository for the power of a monopoly is the Government, which is amenable to the control of the public. Our monopolists might as well understand that they will have to reckon with this feeling in the politics of the near future.

The last English papers announce that the great strike in the Lancashire coal mines is about at an end, the owners having "learned with great surprise and regret that they have been misunderstood" by their employees. These latter, it seems, had perversely imagined that the owners wanted to force them to forego the provisions of the lately passed "Employer's Liability act." The employers had no such intention, however—they themselves have said it, which we suppose is greatly to their credit. A curious circumstance connected with this sudden discovery by the owners that they were misunderstood is that it should have been made immediately after a body of police, who guarded the "starvation pit" near Ashton, received a sound thrashing from 600 colliers who attacked them with blackened faces.

**Roland's Rival.**

Prince Philippe de Bourbon is giving much trouble, including the apprehension of scandal, to his relatives. This youth is the scion of the Neapolitan branch of that luckless house, his father being the Count of Acquila, first cousin to the ex-king of the two Sicilies, and his mother a daughter of the Emperor Pedro I. of Brazil. There are six lives between Prince Philippe and the succession to the shadowy crown of Francis II., so that his highness probably feels at liberty to act unfettered by the sense of too grave responsibilities. His follies have hitherto been of a modest kind, chiefly confined to the borrowing of money which he found impossible to repay. But it was hoped the prince, who is 33 years of age, would yet make a brilliant marriage, and redeem the past with his wife's money. Some weeks ago this was very nearly the case. Few are aware that Philippe de Bourbon was the rival of Roland Bonaparte; yet so it was, and the prince of the older family was in high favor with Madame Blanc, who lent him a good deal of money in sums of a few thousand francs at a time. After a while, however, Madame Blanc discovered that the descendant of Hugh Capet was not noble enough for her daughter, and the fair prize of the contest was awarded to Prince Roland. Now the Bourbons can not understand how even a Bonaparte could descend so low in the social scale.

**An Audience of Queen Elizabeth.**

Among the archives at the ministry of foreign affairs in Paris, says the *London Globe*, is a curious document, an account by Hurault de Maisse, of a mission upon which he went as ambassador to the English court in 1597. His first interview took place on the 8th of December in that year, and is described with graphic minuteness. One of the court carriages came for the ambassador of Henry IV., and conducted him to the Thames, where a boat was awaiting him, which immediately put off, and deposited him at the entrance to Whitehall. He was then conducted by the lord chamberlain through a dark corridor—the obscurity of which evidently made a great impression on his mind—to a private apartment in which was the queen. Her majesty was sitting in a low chair at the top of the room, alone and retired, at a distance from the crowd of lords and ladies in the lower part of the chamber. When he had made his reverence she advanced five or six paces to meet him, and took both his hands, after he, on his part, had

humbly kissed the lower part of her dress. She then excused herself for not having received him before, by alleging an inflammation on the right side of her face. She also made me her excuses," adds the ambassador, "for being found in her night-dress, and began to reproach her attendants, saying, 'What will these gentlemen think to see me dressed in this guise? I am truly grieved that they should see me in this state!'" The gown in question was a close-fitting dress of white carnation, with a profusion of silver gauze. "It had open sleeves lined with red taffeta, and was girt with other little sleeves which hung down as far as the ground, and which she kept tying and untying from time to time. She had on her head a garland of rubies and pearls, and underneath a great, thick wig of reddish color, with an infinity of gold and silver curl-papers, and a few pearls, which hung down over her forehead."

**The Sand Blast.**

Among the wonderful and useful inventions of the time is the common sand blast. Suppose you desire a piece of marble for a gravestone. You cover the stone with a sheet of wax no thicker than a wafer, then you cut in the wax the name, date, etc., leaving the marble exposed. Now press it under the blast, and the sand will cut it away. Remove the wax and you have the raised letters. Take a piece of French plate glass, say two feet by six, cover it with fine lace and pass it under the blast and not a thread of the lace will be injured, but the sand will cut deep into the glass wherever it is not covered by the lace.

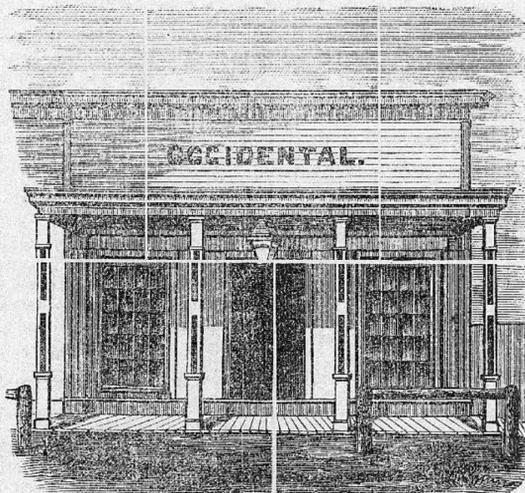
Now remove the lace, and you have every delicate and beautiful figure raised upon the glass. In this way beautiful figures of all kinds are cut in glass at a small expense. The workmen can hold their hands under the blast without harm, even when it is rapidly cutting away the hardest glass, iron or stone, but they must look out for finger nails, for they will be whittled off right hastily. If they put on steel thimbles to protect the nails it will do little good, for the sand will soon whittle them away; but if they wrap a piece of soft cotton around them they are safe. You will at once see the philosophy of it. The sand whittles away and destroys any hard substance—even glass—but does not affect substances that are soft and yielding, like wax, cotton or fine lace, or even the human hand.

There was once a poor, pitiful plumber,  
Who was meekness itself in the Summer,  
But the frost made his "pile,"  
And he now has the style  
Of a brass-mounted St. Louis drummer.

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