

GOSSIP FROM LONDON

Queen Victoria Wins Prizes at the Cattle Show.

DOCKING HORSES' TAILS

GREAT ISSUE NOW BEFORE THE PUBLIC.

Victoria Deeply Affected By the Gratitude of a Sailor—Betrothal of Queen Wilhelmina—Rudyard Kipling's Latest Poem—South African Swindler's Claim.

(Copyright, 1898, by the Associated Press.) London, Dec. 10.—The weather in Great Britain is still marked by exceptional mildness and plentiful rainfall.

The event of the week has been the centenary cattle show at Islington, which was opened by the Prince of Wales with a record entry. The queen won several first prizes, Viscount Portman, the Earl of Coventry, Baron Rothschild and Lord Rosebery were also among the prize winners.

The council of the Royal Agricultural Society has brought resolutions on its head by what the newspapers characterize as a discreditable resolution, including the recent rule against docking horse tails. The royal family and the leading members of the aristocracy and army have set a good example against this so-called barbarous custom, but many of the "smart" people refuse to purchase undocked horses. Much opposition to the rule has thus been aroused among breeders and pressure was put upon the agriculture society to rescind the rule. The newspapers now demand that parliament intervene and absolutely prohibit docking. The queen-mother of the Netherlands

has written to Queen Victoria privately, definitely announcing her daughter's betrothal to Prince William of Wied. An official notification on the subject will be made shortly. The question of the status of Prince William has not been settled, but it is now believed Queen Victoria's precedent will be followed.

Miss Weston, who is well-known for her work among sailors, has just had an interview with the queen at Windsor, who is keenly interested in her labors. Her majesty recently gave a "cabin" to the "sailors' rest" at Denonport, and Miss Weston related to the queen an incident of a sick sailor, who, after having been placed in the cabin, asked if the queen really gave the cabin out of her private pocket. When told it was true, the sailor said: "I would not have believed it unless I had seen it. She has been my queen always. Now she is my friend."

Miss Weston says the queen wept on hearing this simple story. Her majesty has contributed \$250 to the Gordon Memorial college fund, which is now fully subscribed.

General Kitchener, who resembles Mr. Cecil Rhodes in several ways, is insisting that he should have only young, unmarried men with him. He called at the foreign office before he left London and said he wanted somebody to take over the financial department in the Sudan.

When he was asked what kind of a man he wanted, General Kitchener said: "I want a man thoroughly up in all financial problems and not over 25 years of age."

General Kitchener is still writing for this financial prodigy.

A KIPLING POEM.

Rudyard Kipling has published in the Times a poem, supposed to be the translation of a song by a Sikh infantryman on hearing that General Kitchener is about to establish the Gordon college at Khartoum. The last verse, speaking of the English, runs: They do not consider the meaning of things.

They consult no creed or clan. Behold, they clap the slave on the back, And behold, he becomes a man. They terribly carpet earth with dead, And before their cannons cool They walk unarmed, by twos and threes, To call the living to school.

Kipling has accepted the vice presidency of the navy league and proposes to take an active part in the movement to which the present efficiency of

the British navy, it is generally admitted, is in a large measure indebted.

CZAR CAN SING.

A letter from St. Petersburg relates that the czar, who is rather proud of his tenor voice, which is sweet and admirably trained, though not of great volume, was in very gay spirits and in excellent form at a recent musical party at the imperial villa at Livadia. He sang a couple of airs particularly well and was so pleased with himself that, turning from the piano to an appreciative court audience, he laughingly exclaimed:

"Well, my children, my enemies say many harsh and unkind things of me and accuse me of being destitute of many capacities. But I defy them to say I cannot sing as well as the best of them."

Although the subscription list to the fund of 1,000,000 guineas, which the Wesleyan Methodists are desirous of raising next year, will not be formally open until Jan. 1, a fifth part of the total has already been guaranteed. Central meetings have been held in six out of the thirty-four administrative districts into which Wesleyan England is divided. Three London districts guaranteed £70,000, Birmingham guaranteed £50,000, Leeds, £30,000, and Manchester, £40,000. Twenty-eight districts have not been heard from.

The auction sale of the Lordship, Boreford stable did not evoke the keen competition anticipated. Diakka, however, was bought in for 1,450 guineas, and El Fin for 200 guineas. Other horses fetched 200 guineas, and Bayara II was sold for 30 guineas.

The United States embassy was recently asked to make known the fact that Mrs. Kelley of Los Angeles, Cal., died, leaving \$25,000 to help unknown.

The embassy officials published this, and ever since they have been inundated by thousands of letters from persons claiming relationship with the deceased, or asking for particulars about her. One letter came from a Glasgow lady, and thought she had probably married a man named Kelley. Would the embassy kindly investigate the matter?

A DUKEDOM AT STAKE.

The parallel of the Druce case is announced in a dispatch from Johannesburg, South Africa, where a man named Charles Gunn has been arraigned on the charge of fraud. He declared he was a brother of the late Duke of Hamilton and left England

after fighting a duel. For private reasons, he added, his death was formally announced; there was a sham funeral, and his coffin was placed in the mausoleum at Hamilton palace, Lanarkshire. Gunn asks that the coffin be opened in order to verify his statement. The story has aroused a great deal of interest here as it is tantamount to a claim upon the dukedom of Hamilton, the present duke only succeeding to the title owing to the absence of a nearer next of kin than a cousin. The late duke's brother, Lord Charles George Archibald Hamilton, was supposed to have died at Nice in 1836. His death was registered at Somerset House, but the cause of his death was not given.

Unprecedented secrecy obtains as to the conditions of the construction of the Shamrock, the challenger for the American cup. Not merely are the most strict precautions taken to prevent a leakage of the details of her construction, but even the place where she is being built is kept secret.

Interviews with Maurice Grau and the other operatic stars, called from New York, in regard to the breach with Faber over Covent Garden, have caused a sensation among opera goers here, and it is supposed the troubles will be patched up at the coming meeting of the grand opera syndicate.

Streeters, the jewelers of Bond street, have instructed John Oakes, an attorney of New York, to commence proceedings against J. Townsend Burgen to recover the balance due in connection with the robbery of jewels from the Burgen mansion in 1895, when about \$38,000 worth of jewelry was stolen by servants.

A reward of \$10,000 was offered by Mr. Burgen for the recovery of the jewelry, and the thieves were arrested in April of this year, after having offered some of the jewelry for sale to the Streeters, who communicated with the police. The Bond street jewelers say \$28 out of the promised \$14,000 is still unpaid.

The police here have made a further recovery of jewelry stolen from the Duchess of Sutherland. Three-fourths of the jewels stolen from the duchess have now been recovered.

Major General Merritt, Mrs. Merritt and the general's aide-de-camp, Lieutenant Streeter, sail from Liverpool for New York today on board the steamer Lucania.

U. S. Baking Powder is pure and strong and only costs 25c per pound.

NAVAL MEN MISTAKEN

Regarded the Capture of Santiago As An Easy Task.

SHAFTER ON THE FIGHT

CONCEDES THAT THE NAVY DID EFFICIENT WORK.

Again Refers to the Mistake at El Caney and Says His Better Judgment Was Against the Attack—What the War Might Have Cost—Best Army Ever in the Field.

New York, Dec. 10.—General Shafter, in the course of a speech at a meeting of the New York Genealogical and Biographical society, referred to the war with Spain as the "war which has resulted so gloriously for the land forces of the United States at Santiago," adding that it was unnecessary to say that the navy had also performed its work in the most efficient manner.

"If the absolute destruction of the enemy was what they were after," General Shafter then went on to say that the United States began the war with an army, on paper, of 25,000. This army was to attack the Spanish soldiers, who for 400 years had been known as gallant fighters and for the last 150 years noted for their stubbornness in aggressive campaigns.

In the course of his ensuing remarks, the speaker said that the officers of the fleet contended when Cervera's squadron was in the harbor of Santiago that the city should be taken and the Spanish vessels destroyed in forty-eight hours, should a force of 10,000 infantry be sent to assist. He said that the army which marched against the city was as perfect a force as could be found in the world. It consisted practically of the whole regular army of the United States, with three regiments

of volunteers, for whom room was found at the last minute on the transports.

Speaking of the fight at El Caney, General Shafter said that an officer of his (the speaker's) division contended that he could take the place by 9 o'clock in the morning without fail, and much against his better judgment, he (Shafter) allowed him to make the attempt. Instead of being taken by 9 o'clock in the morning, El Caney was not captured until nearly 5 o'clock in the evening, and with a loss of life as great as at San Juan; greater, indeed, in proportion to the number of troops engaged.

Proceeding, the speaker said that the army in Cuba had as good a staff of quartermasters and subsistence officers as the world had ever seen. There had been a great deal said about the suffering among the American troops in Cuba. He would not expect his hearers to believe him if he told them that there was no suffering.

The more effective the work of the army, the greater the amount of suffering that was necessary. But he could say with certainty that there was not one hour after they landed in Cuba that all the American soldiers did not have bread, meat, sugar and coffee. On one day only half rations of the two last named provisions were given to part of the troops, but the deficiency was made up the next day.

There had been some talk of the Seventy-first New York and the Second Massachusetts volunteers not standing fire. The only reason for this was the fact that some of the men of these two regiments got among the regulars, who were using smokeless powder. The volunteers had the old powder, and the regulars simply would not have them. Every shot fired by a volunteer brought a hail of bullets from the Spaniards, and the regulars rightly objected to this.

The speaker then spoke of the remarkable good feeling that existed between the American and Spanish troops after the fall of Santiago. In conclusion, he said that he took little credit to himself for the successful result of the campaign. That was due to the best army ever brought together in the United States. If the war had taken the course originally mapped out, and hostilities had been begun in the autumn, with a great battle to decide the fate of Cuba between the Americans and the Spanish army in and around Havana, 50,000 Americans, he declared, would have been lost.

The Grown-up Folk's Santa Claus is the Grocer who keeps Pride of Japan Tea. (Tree) Tea. The Best Tea in packages imported into this country. 16 pounds and weights.

IGLESIAS SAILS. Costa Rican President Will Make Us Another Visit. New York, Dec. 10.—President Iglesias of Costa Rica sailed today for France on the steamship La Gasconne. He said that he was very much pleased with his cordial reception in this country. "I am on my way to France," said President Iglesias, "and I shall spend some time in Paris. Then I shall go to England. I expect to be back in the United States by February, and then intend seeing the country from Maine to California. President McKinley has treated me very kindly, and through the press I send him my best regards today." This was the first visit of the Costa Rican president to the United States.

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