

THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL

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A CITY MILK SUPPLY.

THE supply of a great city of those things that are among the absolute necessities of life is a matter of the highest importance, because it concerns the health and life of the people. Of all food supplies milk is the most important. It is a prime necessity in every family and is the sole food of infants. It is also the medium through which disease is most easily and most commonly communicated to man.

The typhoid epidemic at Stanford University two years ago was caused by the vile conditions in one small dairy. The owner of that dairy caused the deaths of young men and women in their prime of life and hope. If he had met them on the street and shot them dead he would have been hanged. But he killed them by slow poison and escaped punishment. A few years ago a typhoid epidemic broke out in Oakland, causing about forty deaths. Its origin was traced to a small dairy where everything was reeking with filth. The owner of that dairy had been guilty of a great crime, but he went unpunished.

Now the dairies in the outskirts of San Francisco are found to be in such condition that the milk they furnish should not be fed to pigs it is so filthy. Many years ago dairies of this kind in and around New York City were examined as a result of abnormal infant mortality. The conditions found were appalling. At that time science had not revealed bacteriology, and men could only infer that milk from animals in the physical condition prevalent in those dairies must carry death with it to the users. Immediately there arose a crusade against "swill milk," which gave to the sanitary inspection of dairies an impulse that is still felt.

As far as investigation has gone it is apparent that the dairies lodged around the edges of San Francisco are in a condition as deplorable and as dangerous as the swill-milk establishments of New York. The buildings, barns and milking sheds are dirty. The cows have no range on pasture, nor access to natural conditions, nor proper food. They stand and lie in their own dejections and are milked without washing and with their flanks in a dirty condition. In many cases the water they drink is contaminated, and the same foul water is used for washing the milk cans and perhaps for thinning the milk. The cows are, as a rule, in a condition to excite pity and the calves are treated so cruelly as to warrant official interference to protect them.

The moral of it all is that these pestiferous and death-dealing dairies around a city should not be permitted at all. The sale of their product should be prohibited. It is impossible that they should produce wholesome milk. That can only be done by cows that have free range on pasture, with natural food in abundance, eating only what is wholesome and living in pure air and the sunshine. Not a pint of milk should be permitted to come into San Francisco from any other conditions.

Within easy reach of this city, by water and land transportation, are districts adapted to dairying, where the best forage for producing milk is to be had in abundance and where the water is pure and every condition is kindly to the cow and favors the production of pure milk. If our sanitary authorities will continue their investigation and abandon the idea that these filthy little dairies can ever be put in a proper condition to produce wholesome milk, but forbid the sale of their products, we may reasonably expect a milk supply from pure sources.

It is a fearful thing that here where nature produces so lavishly the finest forage and outdoor conditions the most favorable the people should take their milk supply from emaciated and diseased cows, standing belly deep in mud and filth. In the pleasant country around us are ideal conditions for dairying decently and wholesomely. If the business were permitted only under such conditions we would have cows fed on pure pasture, milked in clean and wholesome sheds and the milk preserved for market, not by drugs but by devices for immediately cooling it to a point that will enable its transportation to the customer in proper condition for use.

Under such a system for supplying milk it could be prepared for keeping any proper length of time in proper vessels, by the Pasteur process for sterilizing. The people should appreciate the importance of rigid rules to control this most necessary and at the same time most dangerous of all food supplies.

The Board of Public Works has placed itself on record with a promise that it shall concern itself strictly, conscientiously and effectively with the task of keeping public thoroughfares clean. It may be well to remember the promise and view it in the light of whatever performance the Works Board reveals. It is encouraging to know, however, that a sense of duty lingers in the minds of the officials involved.

ASSOCIATED CHARITIES.

WE notice that the press of the State is circulating a statement derogatory to the Associated Charities of this city, which seems to be based on a misunderstanding of the object and purpose of that organization. This misunderstanding is to the effect that the charities is expected to furnish funds for the relief of those in need. As its ordinary income is less than \$4000 and its expenditure is a little more the comment is made that its income is used up in office expenses and the compensation of its office force, which is sneeringly referred to as "of the female persuasion."

As we understand the purposes of the Associated Charities it is not an almoner at all. The many beneficial organizations and charity committees of the different churches are constantly appealed to for relief by strangers and by beggars of all descriptions. Among these there is a large percentage of impostors. The unorganized public is appealed to every day, on the streets, for relief and charity by promiscuous beggars. It was found upon investigation that indiscriminate giving by individuals and organizations was an evil in itself. It encouraged imposture, and diverted from the worthy poor a vast charity fund which, directed in proper channels, would help the deserving poor to a better condition. To do this work the Associated Charities was devised. It is the business of those who administer it to examine the cases of all applicants for charity and to see that they

are relieved by whatever organization they have the most claims upon. If a church committee is applied to for relief it refers the case to the Associated Charities as a rule, first furnishing enough means for immediate relief during the time an examination is being made. If the case is reported worthy the relief is continued. If not it is withdrawn. Even such highly organized bodies as the Masons and Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and Elks find it necessary to use the mockery of the Associated Charities to protect themselves against imposture. If such be necessary in their case how much more necessary is it for church communities and private individuals.

The Associated Charities have command of the liberality of many wealthy people who make it a rule to give a stated sum to charity every year. They want to give this wisely and where it is needed and not indiscriminately and for the use of frauds and impostors. The only way they can do this is by co-operation with the Associated Charities. That organization also receives and distributes clothing and fuel properly when furnished by the charitable. It is in communication and co-operation with the Salvation Army, the Volunteers of America and all associated persons who do charity work, and is the general clearing-house for all charitable effort.

The article referred to says that eight ladies are employed in the Associated Charities of San Francisco, and complains that their salaries and car fare amount to \$2048 15 per year. That is only \$368 51 apiece for a year's work and car fare! Instead of complaining that it is too much, as the article does, we should all be ashamed that it is so little.

For rent, telephone, printing and postage the sum of \$1109 30 was spent, and that is out of proportion to the amount of good done by the devoted women who administer associated affairs. We have no doubt that they save the waste upon impostors and frauds of many times the cost of their work and confine it to cases in which it is really needed and where it does good. We make no apology for this indorsement of their work and commendation of them, hoping that it may not only overtake and correct the misrepresentation of their purpose but that it will stir the community to a sense of its duty to them. Their equipment should be better, their income larger and their pay increased.

The Federal Commissioner of Immigration stationed at this port has decided in the case of an Italian anarchist that an expert maker of bombs and infernal machines is not such a man as Uncle Sam cares to have within the confines of his domain. The decision is eminently just. Our political agitators, storming everything in sight with the artillery of their lungs, make noise enough to suit us and fortunately commit no more harm than the assault of exploded wind upon our eardrums.

FOREIGN TRUSTS.

IT is believed to be useful for partisan purposes to teach the people that the transaction of much of the business of this country by large corporations, given the bad name of trusts, is an evil that has originated in our protective tariff. This course is taken in order to effectively ambush another attack on protection.

But as large a part of the business of Great Britain is transacted by corporations between which our trusts there is no appreciable difference in economics if there is in law. There have been organized in Great Britain 77,579 of such corporations, with a stock issue of \$29,982,110,245. A majority of these floated their stock and went under to the loss of the shareholders, just as the wild-cat trusts in this country did to the loss of the investing public.

The Manchester Chronicle says that last year 1629 of these corporations became insolvent, inflicting a loss of \$145,995,000 upon the public which had taken their stocks. The same authority says that in the last ten years the losses from the same cause have amounted to \$2,725,240,000. It is declared that this lost capital was never represented by valid assets. That is to say it was watered and fictitious capital.

The Chronicle declares that there must be legislation to protect the public against the life of such investments and that "It does not meet the case to say that we cannot legislate for fools; we must so legislate as to protect the nation from unscrupulousness, dishonesty and fraud. The Board of Trade has been urged by the stock exchange to deal with this abuse and a serious effort must be made to safeguard our commercial interests by making the law very stringent in dealing with abuses of flotation under the limited liability system."

All the features familiar to us in the United States appear in Great Britain. Under free trade stock watering and luring of investors go on just as here under protection. The revenue system makes no difference. If our Democratic politicians were in Great Britain we suppose they would be pointing to free trade as the mother of trusts and the wicked inventor of stock watering.

United States Senator Gorman has given to Republicans and Democrats alike another evidence of the judgment and shrewd common sense which have dictated and directed his political career. At the recent State convention in Maryland Senator Gorman gave his best energies to prevent any indorsement of himself for the Presidential nomination of the Democratic party. And nobody for a moment believes that Gorman tolerates the chances of any other aspirant before himself.

A CORRECTION.

THE CALL, under date of the 13th day of March, 1903, published a special dispatch from Washington dated March 12. This dispatch stated that some of the money placed in the hands of United States Consul Victor E. Nelson, Bergen, Norway, for payment to families of the Maine in Havana harbor had not reached the relatives of those soldiers, although it was said the money was given to Nelson for distribution; that after an investigation by the State Department upon this charge Consul Nelson was cabled for his resignation.

The Call published this dispatch in the course of its business without any personal knowledge of the facts as alleged, but finds upon examination that it was misled, and that the statements contained in the dispatch were not true. Mr. Nelson did not receive any money for distribution and it is not the custom of the department to make such distributions through the hands of the Consul, consequently it was impossible that there should have been any investigation of that charge, and it is equally impossible that the State Department should have asked him for his resignation for any such cause.

The Call takes pleasure in making this correction and placing before the public the proper statement of these facts.

TALK OF THE TOWN AND TOPICS OF THE TIMES



Draining the Everglades.

There are great agricultural possibilities in the Florida Everglades. Though they are yet merely an expansive waste of swamp and lake and jungle, I venture to predict that they will be the location of hundreds of fertile farms within ten years and will by degrees develop into one of the most productive tracts of land in the world. The barrier to the utilization of the Everglades has been, of course, the water which covers the greater part of them to a depth of from one to six feet. But it has been found entirely practicable to drain off the water. Work to this end has already been begun and is being pushed rapidly. When it is completed a tract of land 160 miles long and sixty wide will have been opened to cultivation. The size of this region is not as important as the remarkable productivity of the soil. The latter is not only absolutely virgin, but has been fertilized by animals and vegetable life through many centuries. I am confident that its crops will lift Florida to a place among the leading agricultural States.

The project of draining the Everglades attracted the attention of Henry B. Plant in the early '90's, but he was so feebly so, I, acting under his direction, undertook an expedition through the region. Despite its proximity to centers of population it was then for the first time thoroughly explored by white men. Ours was virtually a voyage of discovery. We paddled our light boats on lakes and camped on islands that I have good reason to believe, had never before been visited by any human being but Seminole Indians, and by these but rarely. We underwent so many hardships that some of our party were compelled to turn back, but our efforts were not in vain, for we ascertained the important fact that the Everglades, along the whole 160 miles of the eastern side, are rimmed by a rock ledge. We furthermore learned that all of the lakes are several feet above sea level, and we decided that there was nothing whatever to prevent the water of the lakes from flowing into the ocean and leaving the land drained if vents could be made in this long ledge of rock. The chief question before us pertained to the practicability of cutting through the ledge in various places and dredging out outlets into the Atlantic, which is not more than two or three miles away at numerous points.

Experiments proved that this work would present no great difficulties. It was merely a matter of a great deal of digging. Henry M. Flagler took up the project and it is being carried out by his lieutenants. We are not only making artificial outlets through the rock, but are also, by ditching and dredging, turning large bodies of water into rivers and creeks which flow to the ocean. The work has progressed far enough to enable me to predict confidently the opening in Florida, within a very few years, of a great tract of land of almost unprecedented fertility.—Success.

Nathan Hale.

Washington wanted a man to serve His country. Not in the martial way; Not in the flurry and dash of fray, For coolly arms and creeds which flow Sapient shrewdness, lightning eye; A spy, if you will, yet no common spy. He found one Knowlton, of 'Congress' Own, Stood with him there on Harlem plain, While to flows and Clinton, adroit as gullies, Through the green flatland monotone Long Island spreads between stream and plain, With bloodthirsty British, miles and miles.

Said Knowlton, colonel of Congress' Own, "Your Excellency, I knew a man, Fit for the perilous task you plan, A captain in my stanch Yankee clan, Still young, yet a patriot to the bone."

So Nathan Hale, being chosen, went By night through the foeman's drowsy ranks; He thought of his home, where the deep-grassed banks Of Connecticut lean to her sparkling bed; He thought of the girl he longed to wed; He thought of his mother, worn and With years; of his youth's ambitious glow; He thought of these, and with shuddering dread For a weak brief moment bowed his head; But he did not falter; he pressed right on; His pluck had the old stern martyr's ring; He would do this covert and vulpine thing, For 'his bleeding land, as her loyal son.

A fox for cunning, a snake for stealth, Rich were the knowledge he gained and stored, Had fate but willed him to bear its wealth Back to the Washington he adored. Yet, no; with his triumph nearly scored, With the sands of Long Island almost sung Off his venturesome feet, with the hope of bright Rehabilitation in manful fight, A passionate truth-lover, noble, young, Scholarly, fresh from his books at Yale, They caught him and killed him, Nathan Hale! —The late EDGAR FAWCETT in The Reader.

Field Outwitted.

Eugene Field was a book collector and one of his favorite jokes, according to the Philadelphia Post, was to enter a bookshop where he was not known and ask in the softest manner for an expurgated edition of Mrs. Hemans' poems. One day in Milwaukee he was walking along the street with his friend, George Yenowine, when the latter halted in front of a bookshop and said: "Gene, the proprietor of this place is the most serious man I ever knew. He never saw a joke in his life. Wouldn't it be a good chance to try again for that expurgated Mrs. Hemans?" Without a word Field entered, asked for the request, "That is a rather scarce book, come the reply. 'Are you prepared to pay fair price for it?' For just a second Field was taken aback; then he said: "Certainly, certainly; I—I know it's rare." The man stepped to a case, took out a cheaply bound volume and handed it to Field, saying: "The price is \$5." Field took it nervously, opened to the

title page and read in correct print: "The Poems of Mrs. Felicia Hemans. Selected and Arranged With All Objectionable Passages Excised by George Yenowine, Editor of Isaac Watts for the Home, 'The Fireside Hannah More,' etc.," with the usual publisher's name and date at the bottom. Field glanced up at the book-seller. He stood there the very picture of sad solemnity. "I'll take it," said Field, faintly, producing the money. Outside Yenowine was missing. At his office the boy said that he had just left, saying that he was going to Standing Rock, Dak., to keep an appointment with Sitting Bull.

Our Golden Fruit.

In an article upon orange growing in California, contributed to the June Booklover's Magazine, Allan Sutherland gives the following account of how our horticulturists profit by the golden fruit:

"Orange groves, in full bearing, frequently yield handsome returns on the investments made. A crop of five acres recently sold for \$1575 on the trees. Some orchards yield as much as \$1800 per acre. Ordinarily a carefully cultivated orchard of ten acres ought to yield a sure annual profit of from \$1200 to \$2000. In full bearing, the average orchard yields about \$150 per acre. Good orange land may be bought from \$50 to \$150 per acre. Groves, including all the water rights and privileges, have sold as high as \$2500 per acre. About \$50,000,000 capital is invested in California groves. Records of the State's product show that the shipments in 1888 were less than one million boxes; in 1899 they had reached four and one-third; in 1902, a little more than eight; and in 1903, eleven and a half million boxes.

"This year 30,000 carloads of oranges have been shipped out of the State, enough to pay a handsome dividend. Growers are looking hopefully to the construction of the Panama canal, which they think will reduce one-third the present freight rate of 90 cents a box which the railroads charge on New York shipments."

Castles for Sale.

Two English castles are about to come under the hammer, each included in the sale of extensive estates. Kingswear Castle, South Devon, will be offered this month, with several properties in the neighborhood. It dates from the reign of King John. During the civil war it was strongly garrisoned by the King's men, but was successfully stormed by the army of Sir Thomas Fairfax, early in the year 1646. The garrison were taken prisoners. The Hanwell Castle estate is to be offered next month. It is situated in Oxfordshire, and the sale will include the whole of the village of Hanwell and part of the village of Drayton, near Banbury. This was the seat of the Cope family, and James I was twice the guest of Sir Anthony Cope, the celebrated Puritan leader, who died in 1614.

Answers to Queries.

TIME DIFFERENCE—Reader, City. There are sixteen hours difference in time between Manila, P. I., and San Francisco—that is, the sun rises there sixteen hours earlier than it does here.

PUBLIC DEBT—Inquirer, City. The public debt of the United States was highest in 1856, when it was \$2,773,236, 173 69. The lowest it has been since was in 1891, when it was down to \$1,546,961,995 61. At the close of 1903 it was \$2,218,883,772 89.

FORT RILEY—Subscriber, City. Fort Riley, the United States military reservation, is one of the suburbs of Junction City, Kans. It comprises 20,000 acres, was selected in 1852 and occupied in 1855. It is now the location of a permanent school of instruction for the United States army in cavalry and artillery practice.

GEORGIA DIVORCE—D. City. The law books of Georgia bearing date of the current year do not contain anything to the effect that "It does not need any other requirement in order to obtain a divorce than the publication of a notice of commencement of action in a newspaper." There is a provision that an action for divorce may be commenced after the party seeking such has resided in the State for one year. If personal service of a summons cannot be made on the party from whom the divorce is sought, a copy of the summons must be published in some newspaper of general circulation in the place where the party is known to reside and a copy of the summons must be mailed to the last known address. If there is no answer after a stipulated time there may be a judgment by default. The complaint for divorce must set forth the grounds, which are in that State: Violation of marriage vow, incapacity, willful desertion (three years), habitual intemperance, felony, cruelty, fraud, insanity or idiocy at the time of marriage, consanguinity and deception by wife at time of marriage unknown to husband.

Townsend's California Glass fruits in artistic fire-etched boxes, 715 Market st.

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MEN and MATTERS IN THE FORE as the WORLD MOVES



The London Stage.

Special Correspondence of The Call. HEADQUARTERS OF THE CALL, HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN, LONDON, May 16.—It is just as we expected, the idea of W. S. Gilbert's new play, "A Fairy's Dilemma," is so fantastic, so glib, so eminently Gilbertian, in fact, that it is no wonder the hankering to work it up and see it acted overcame all Mr. Gilbert's resolutions to write no more for the stage. And let it be said at once that no one but the author of "Iolanthe" and "The Bab Ballads"—the two Gilbert inventions that the new Garrick play most recalls—could have constructed, as probably no one else could have conceived, this brilliant piece of trifling. Its chief characters, Rosebud, the good fairy who bungles hopelessly the romantic mission she has undertaken, and Alcohol, the demon who, because tradition requires him to speak in numbers and he has no knack at verse, has provided himself with a rhyming dictionary, are creatures whose like the stage has not known since the palmy days of the Savoy. And this time the famous librettist has outdared himself. Dignified judicial luminaries, bumptious military men and false ecclesiastics always have been marks for Gilbert's wit, but never before has he gone so far as to picture a learned and crusty Judge transformed into a pantomime, a Baronet of the Life Guards turned into a pantomime clown or a sanctimonious vicar bewitched into a dancing harlequin in the skinniest of spangled tights. To a first-night audience the satire gave glee but no offense; whether the piece will be a popular success no one has ventured to prophesy.

The whole thing is a burlesque on the time-honored English pantomime. When Mr. Gilbert raises his curtain we find that Rosebud, the good fairy, is in disgrace with the Fairy Queen. Her mission is to help along lagging love affairs. Those in the neighborhood, however, have gone but indifferently for some time, and the Queen of the fays has decreed that unless Rosebud brings off a coup of some sort she will be thrust into the back row of the fairy ballet, "along with the stout ones," as Mr. Gilbert puts it. Anxious to avoid this, Rosebud has been watching a sort of double-barreled love affair that has been going on in her vicinity, the suitors in the case being a somewhat timid country vicar and a Baronet in the Life Guards. The vicar is in love with a learned Judge's daughter, who, for courtship purposes, has disguised herself as a hospital nurse, but Rosebud notices that the Baronet also frequently offers attentions to this lady and the fairy believes that the military man's intentions toward her are not honorable. Here is an opportunity to intervene. She seeks the aid of the Demon Alcohol, an evil spirit, with, however, conscientious scruples that handicap him considerably, and after some trouble induces him to carry off the lady to the Baronet's flat in Whitehall Court, whence she, the good fairy, will rescue her just in time and restore her to her ecclesiastical lover.

But when the scene changes to the vicar's drawing-room we find an unexpected state of affairs. It seems that the churchman's sweetheart's father, the pompous Justice Wortle, does not approve of the vicar as a suitor, and in order to deceive him the reverend and the Baronet are in the habit, in public, of devoting themselves to each other's lady loves.

So when Rosebud—appearing through a bookcase—bursts upon the vicar and the Baronet's sweetheart and assures them that she will devote herself to straightening out their affairs, they inform her politely that her services are not required. Nevertheless she perseveres, and soon afterward the demon carries off the lady to the quarters of the "bold, buccaneering Baronet," as the fairy supposes him. No end of comic happenings follow, but finally the fairy discovers that she has made a fool of herself and helped no one, and then it is that, out of pique, she transports the vicar, the Judge, the Baronet and his lady love to "The Revolving Reams of Radiant Rehabilitation" and metamorphoses them into the familiar pantomime figures of pantaloons, columbine, harlequin and clown, respectively. In which guise they are obliged to perform in the vicar's drawing-room, to find a criticism of their enforced histrionic efforts in the London Times, the somewhat erudite style of whose critic Gilbert parodies amusingly. All ends happily, with the right lovers united, and the fairy comforted for her disappointment by the demon's promise to renounce his calling and marry her. At the end she is calling him "George."

Socially the opening of the Royal Opera season in London this week was not quite as brilliant as usual, the King and Queen being absent in Ireland and the display of dressmaking and diamonds being fairly modest. The Covent Garden opera house is not so spacious and gorgeous a place as the Metropolitan in New York, and the fact that most of the singers come hither directly after the rigors of the American season sometimes gives an impression that the whole affair is a little shop-worn. But there was one feature of the opening night this year. In Covent Garden that opera-goers in the Royal Opera have had to do with—That feature was the presence

A War Farce.

At the recent Royal Academy banquet in London, a little piece of history that sounded like a fairy tale formed the substance of the speech of Lord Selborne in responding to the toast of the navy. Recently, he said, they had had only too good reason to realize how inseparable were the greatest risks from the seaman's life. They were beginning to learn also what a modern naval war meant. Still, those days of the navy immortalized by Captain Marryat were not altogether past.

A few weeks ago two small cruisers, British and American, found themselves in a port, which should be nameless, and discovered that the annual revolution was going on. The Government was in possession of the town, and the opposition were rapidly advancing to attack it. The two captains put their heads together—for there were many British and American citizens in the town, and much British and American property—and they sent a joint note to the combatants warning them that, however much fighting they chose to do, they (the two captains) forbade them to fight in the town.

The Government and the opposition both wrote back to say that their excellencies should be obeyed; but, as their excellencies had forbidden fighting in the town, would they kindly say where the fighting might take place. The two captains were quite equal to the occasion. They surveyed the country, and selected a position which would do for military operations, with rivers, hills and everything in its proper place.

They then carefully drew up the order of proceedings. They intimated that this position was to be held by the Government, that the opposition was to retire a certain number of miles and might then proceed to take the position, but—and these were the rules—if the Government once abandoned the position they were to be held to have been beaten, while if the opposition were unable to take the position they must withdraw.

The terms were accepted without demur. The Government occupied the position, and the opposition withdrew, and in the course of two or three days advanced to the attack. There was a terrific amount of fighting, an immense amount of ammunition was expended, and a great many lives were lost. Eventually the Government went on the run and retreated pell-mell through the town into the fortress. But the moment the opposition arrived at the position which the Government formerly held, they ceased firing—not one single shot was fired after the Government had abandoned the position.

When the opposition had occupied the position and the Government had retired into the fortress, both armies hoisted a flag. "Referees required," and the two captains, with the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes flying, then solemnly went up to the fort. The army of the victors (the opposition) lined the streets and presented arms. All the shutters of all the shops were taken down, and the population turned out and heartily cheered the referees. Then came the delicate and diplomatic question of arranging the terms of peace. The two captains decided that in respect of the men of the army of the Government they must lay down their arms and should then be allowed to go free. The opposition accepted those terms without question. They then said that the generals of the Government, and they thought the Prime Minister, too, should be allowed to leave the country unmolested, but that the opposition at first strongly demurred, thinking that they ought at once to be shot.

But the two captains pointed out to them that revolutions were a flourishing institution in the country; that there was no reason to suppose that this was the last, and that to shoot the leaders might be a precedent dangerous to the leaders of the opposition at some future time. After a great deal of consideration and a council of war the strength of these arguments became apparent to the opposition and the late government and their generals were sent out of the country unmolested.

The only thing that then remained was for the two captains to see that the soldiers in the fortress laid down their arms. That was seen to, and the army of the late government then left the fortress. The moment they left the fortress they were met by the general of the victorious opposition, who offered them double pay to join his army. Without a moment's hesitation and without a single dissentient voice the offer was accepted, the vanquished soldiers resumed their arms and then formed part of the escort of the army of the opposition which conducted the two captains back to their cruisers.

This amusing story by Lord Selborne of a comic opera was evoked much laughter from the distinguished company present.—Boston Transcript.

Christianity in Japan.

Some of the prominent men of Japan are Christians. To this creed belong one member of the imperial Cabinet, two Judges of the Supreme Court, two Presidents of the Lower House of Parliament, three Vice Ministers of State. In the present Parliament the President and thirteen members in a total membership of 300 are Christians. In the army there are 155 Christian officers, or 3 per cent of all, and the two largest battleships are commanded by Christians. In Tokio three of the daily papers have Christian editors.