

SCANDINAVIAN NEWS

Interesting Notes From Across the Ocean.

HAPPENINGS IN THE FATHERLAND.

Principal Events That Have Occurred in the Old Countries About the North Sea Within a Week or So Just Past.

NORWAY.

An Italian named Illneb, for some time past, has been exhibiting different trained animals at the Tivoli variety theater, Kristiania. Mr. Thorsen, a representative of the Woman's Society for the Protection of Animals, made strong objections to the exhibitions, but the police could not make out a case of cruelty to animals. Mr. Thorsen now resorted to animals. Mr. Illneb exhibited his animals. This made the hot-headed man of the south so angry that upon meeting Thorsen one day he challenged him to a duel. Being informed that matters are not settled in that manner in Norway, Mr. Illneb gave his tormentor a blow over his right eye with his fist and ran away before Mr. Thorsen's cane began to play. The matter was reported to the police, and Mr. Thorsen demanded the most severe punishment. But when both parties to the squabble had cooled down somewhat a compromise was effected on a cash basis. Mr. Illneb paying a fine of \$27 to the woman's society.

It is reported from Arendal that gold has been found in Kolt and at several places in Froland.

The managers of the Kristiania steam kitchen have resolved that the "pure," or legal, colors of Norway shall not be raised above the building.

The capacity of the Borge stone quarry and stone dressing establishment near Kristiania will be largely extended next summer, a part of a neighboring mountain having been secured.

The fifth popular edition of Bjornson's stories has appeared.

"A Poem about Death," a large painting by Skredsvig, has been secured for Our Savior's church, Kristiania, by private subscription.

Asbjornsen and Sevtredt's saw mill at Sarsborg and about one-third of the lumber on hand were consumed by fire in the middle of the day, entailing a loss of \$70,000.

The managers of the National theater have ordered a copy of Skeibrok's bust of Bjornson in bronze.

It is proposed to build a new factory at Lillehammer for the manufacture of copper and brass plates, wires, screens, etc. Norway produces the copper, exports it, and imports it again in the shape of ready-made goods. Some thrifty business men thought it would be a good thing to do the manufacturing at home, hence the new enterprise.

The assessed valuation of the city of Trondhjem is about \$11,000,000, and the income \$3,050,000.

Sathre's hospital for the insane, Bergen, has been sold to the state for \$8,000.

For years past the state has been operating the Kongsberg silver mines at a loss. A few days ago a rich vein was struck. It yields 50 pounds of silver per cubic meter of ore, while 24 pounds to the cubic meter is considered a paying quantity.

The latest reports from the fishing grounds are most favorable. In April 3 about 24,000,000 codfish had been caught, as compared with 16,500,000 in 1900.

The import of woolen goods has decreased about 40 per cent since 1895. This is largely due to the protective tariff. The mills at home now supply the demand for the coarser grades of goods, while the finer goods are imported.

Abel Bergstrom, who has been connected with Aas agricultural college since 1860, retired from active life the 1st of April. He was born in Sweden in 1834, but has spent his life among the Norwegians. The decided success of the above institution is largely due to the tireless efforts of Mr. Bergstrom.

SWEDEN.

The second chamber of the riksdag, after a protracted debate, permitted the construction of a railway from Kiruna to Svappavaara.

The second chamber of the riksdag voted down a motion to give its members free passes on the railroads.

Nykoping is to have a new sulphite factory at a cost of \$100,000.

Bishop von Scheele is to leave for the United States in October.

Rev. G. Hogner has been appointed to go to the Shetland islands to tend to the religious wants of several hundred Swedish fishermen who spend the summer season in that locality. His residence will be at Baltasound.

One hundred young ladies are attending a course of instruction which is given for the benefit of those who are under obligation to serve as sick nurses in the army in case of war. Nothing like this has ever been attempted in Sweden before, and the young ladies are pursuing their studies with wonderful enthusiasm.

The present session of the riksdag is not expected to close until some time in June.

Rich deposits of gold are said to have been discovered in the Gellivare mining region. The exact locality is known to only a very few.

About twenty men representing the peat drying industry of Southern Sweden held a convention at Esiof and agreed to reduce their prices, and also passed a resolution in favor of a reduction in railway rates. Those attending the convention handled 50,000 tons of peat last summer.

Both houses of the riksdag have passed the laborers' accident insurance bill drawn up by the government.

The town of Hoor has been lighted with electricity since April 10.

The riksdag has resolved to add 80 teachers to the corps of instructors of the higher institutions of learning.

THE PATENT OFFICE.

One of the Most Important Branches of Our Government.

Founded by the Framers of the Constitution and Carefully Nursed by the Officers First Placed in Charge of It.

[Special Washington Letter.]

For the first time in two score years the patent office has sufficient room for the transaction of its voluminous and increasingly important business. The interior department building, one of the most beautiful structures in this city, was

overcrowded for many years, and its magnificent corridors were disfigured with book racks and other official impediments. But when the new post office department edifice was constructed, and that department was moved from its quarters opposite the interior department, the building which it had occupied since 1846 was taken possession of by the interior department, and this gave an opportunity for the commissioner of patents to so arrange the working force of his office that business might be carried on in a systematic manner.

By a wise provision of the constitution of our republic (article 1, paragraph 8 of section 8), the congress was given power to promote the progress of science and the useful arts, by securing to authors and inventors, for limited times, the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries. This portion of the constitution was obtained through the efforts of James Madison and Charles Pinckney, and was the beginning of the patent system. The first general law providing for patents was passed in 1790, and the first patent issued was to Samuel Hopkins, July 31, 1790, for making pot and pearl ashes.

Under this patent law the office fees were paid to the state department clerks who made out the patent. The fees amounted to \$3.70, and ten cents for every 100 words for filing the specification. The chief clerk of the state department issued the patent and received the fees as a part of his salary. Under this law, which was repealed in 1793, there was no patent office, and not even a division of patents. A new law was passed in 1793, and several amendments made thereafter. The issue of patents, however, still remained in the state department.

In 1800 the department of state removed to Washington and took up its quarters at Pennsylvania avenue and Twenty-first street; and in May, 1802, President Jefferson appointed William Thornton as a clerk at \$1,400 per year to have charge of the issuing of patents. This William Thornton was an interesting character, especially to inventors and Washingtonians. An excellent portrait of him hangs in the commissioner's room in the patent office. Thornton had charge of the patent affairs from 1802 to his death in 1828. He was an intimate friend of Washington, and was by him appointed one

of the three commissioners to survey and lay out the federal capital. Thornton's house, at 1331 F street, was one of the first private residences to be erected in Washington.

He was an Englishman and was born on the island of Tortola, his uncle being at that time president of the island. He first met Washington at Philadelphia and became a warm friend of the "Father of His Country," and his home on F street in Washington became a familiar resort of Washington when he was president.

A story is told of him that during the war of 1812, when the British captured the city of Washington and destroyed the capitol building, a loaded cannon was trained upon the patent office for the purpose of destroying it, and he is said to have put himself before the gun, and in a frenzy of excitement exclaimed: "Are you Englishmen or only Goths and Vandals? This is the patent office, a depository of the ingenuity and inventions of the American nation, in which the whole civilized world is interested. Would you destroy it? If so, fire away, and let the charge pass through my body." The effect is said to have been magical upon the soldiers, and to have saved the patent office from destruction.

In 1821 Thornton assumed the title of superintendent, and was so registered in the government blue book, but it was not until 1830 that law recognized the title by specifically mentioning the office.

The 1810 congress authorized the purchase of a building for the post of-

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"A married lady would like work in a boarding house; one that can go home nights." This is an advertisement from a Boston paper.

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The publishers of "Burke's Peerage" are ardently in favor of the growth of republican ideas in other countries than Great Britain, because they find that they sell more copies of that work in the United States than in any other country of the world.

The late William M. Ervarts was fond of the west, but fonder of the east. In an after-dinner speech at Omaha he once said: "I like the west. I like her self-made men, and the more I travel west the more I meet with the public men, the more I am satisfied of the truthfulness of the Bible statement that the wise men came from the east."

John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of Abraham Lincoln, lies in an unmarked grave that, except perhaps to one or two persons, is also unknown. Dr. George L. Porter, of Bridgeport, Conn., who saw both the killing of Lincoln and the death and burial of Booth, says that Booth's body was hidden in Washington Arsenal, in a spot kept secret. After that it was given to the family on condition that no monument nor even a mound should mark its resting place.

The greatest bore upon this earth, the biggest nuisance known, is he who talks about himself. And his small affairs alone. When you think he ought to listen. While you talk about your own.

ACCOUNTED FOR.

"I was an enumerator in 1890 down in Louisiana, and, being down on my uppers about that time, I was tickled enough to get the job," said Col. "Simon" Baston, the Cheyenne (Wyo.) millionaire, to a writer in the New York Commercial. "My bill against the government was \$119 and I used to lie awake nights planning how I would blow the money in. I was terribly disappointed when the supervisor told me I would have to wait for a government check. He said, however, that the remittance would be along in a few days, and I began to haunt the post office, expecting to get it in every mail. I kept that up for about 60 days, and meanwhile missed several good chances of getting a job.

"About a month later the other boys received their checks, but mine failed to arrive. I wrote a hot letter to Washington, telling the supervisor general all about my troubles, and in four or five weeks got a reply from the ninth deputy of the fourth assistant clerk of the acting superintendent of the bureau of kicks and walls. He said the records showed that all the enumerators had been paid, intimated, courteously, that I was a crook and bunco man, and requested me to fill out the enclosed blanks. They were forms for filing a claim against the government. I threw the bunch into the waste basket. I decided not to devote my entire life to the collection of \$119. I'll forget this, I said to myself, and try to live it down.

"In the fall of 1894 I was spending my vacation at Denver, Col., when I received a letter that had been chasing me all over the country and was black with postmarks. It contained a check for \$119, and a brief, cold, typewritten statement that the census bureau had found my account. I cashed the check, took the money to a faro bank around the corner, put it on the ace, and lost."

ORIGIN OF THE SLAVS.

As Accounted For by a Noted Polish Anthropologist of Europe.

There has been considerable diversity of opinion concerning the ethnic affinities of the Slavs, and Zaborowski returns to the subject in a recent number of the "Bulletin et Memoires de la Societe d'Anthropologie." His view is that the Slavs belong to the same race as the Celts of French anthropologists, and that the members of the Alpine race, says Nature. Their original home was that which is still occupied by the southern Slav between the Danube and the Adriatic, and they were allied to the inhabitants of the Terramar of Emilia. The northern Slavs migrated along the valley of the Vistula and reached the shores of the Baltic, where they developed a civilization and introduced in this region the practice of burning their dead, which was previously unknown there; they also brought with them metals and glass. Wherever the Slavs migrated they introduced the custom of incineration, and carried with them the characteristic metal head rings the ends of which terminated in sigmoid curves. The settlement of Venede, on the Baltic, dates back to the fourth century B. C. The Baltic Slavs were profoundly affected by the expansion of the Germans, about the beginning of our era, but apparently not until the eighth century did Slavs colonize northern Russia.

Viennese Muffs.

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A Tardy Acknowledgment.

Wife—I never knew anyone that was so indisposed to action as you are. I don't believe you were ever in a hurry in your life.

Husband—You are wrong, madam. You seem to forget the time when I proposed to you.—Richmond Dispatch.

Wife's Dilemma.

Van Dorn—Why did Highflyer look so depressed this morning?

Jelley—Why, he called on Mabel Million last night and found Miss Dollars and Miss Banks both there.

Van Dorn—Well?

Jelley—Why, you see, he's engaged to all of them.—Leslie's Weekly.

Misplaced Honors.

Willie Borem (entertaining his sister's caller)—Do you like baseball very much, Mr. Jamaica?

Mr. Jamaica—I never played ball much, Willie. I enjoy golf.

Willie Borem (disappointed)—Why, I heard you tell Susan you was a great catch!—Brooklyn Eagle.

Cents of Touch.

His—Isn't it wonderful what a delicate sense of touch blind people have.

Dix—Yes. Only this morning a blind beggar touched me for ten cents.—Chicago Daily News.

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"People are never satisfied," remarked the man with the mild eye and the gentle voice, as he sat in a cottage, and we're found a little gem of a place out in the country. We shall be so happy.

"I should like to meet him. Can't you have him here to tea some night?"

"Impossible, my dear. The cook has left, and we are obliged to go to a restaurant for meals."—N. Y. Weekly.

A LANGUAGE LESSON.

Cholly—And now that you've finished school, Miss Daisy, I suppose you can conjugate love in several languages.

Miss Daisy—No, but I can decline "you" in English.—Harlem Life.

The Variety of Night.

Under the sun there's naught that's strange, 'tis true; But—mark me every month The moon is new.—Detroit Free Press.

Her Part of It.

"And you made that hat yourself, Irene?" said the caller, in surprise.

"Why, it's as good a job as if you had paid some milliner \$25 for it."

"I'll tell you how she made it," put in Miss Irene's younger brother, with the superior knowledge that comes to a boy in his second year at manual training school. "She assembled it. She bought the parts and put them together."—Chicago Tribune.

Hoodooed.

Mrs. Crawford (after their first quarrel)—It was all your blame. Mama always said I was the one girl in a million.

Crawford—A fellow can't play against such luck as that. Look what a chance I had to be happy for life, and to think that an old million-to-one shot had to come along and beat me out.—Judge.

Didn't Know.

"If I should steal a kiss from you, Pray, pretty maid, what would you do?"

With eyelids drooped she murmured: "Well, Until you do, how can I tell?"—Harlem Life.

A MISTAKE SOMEWHERE.

Mrs. O'Hoolihan—Faith, Molke, th' father was after sayin' me tongue was an organ. Did I ever ye hear th' loike?

Molke—Bedad, an' it's a bad mish-take he's after makin'. Shore, an' they do say as how there be shtops to an organ; but there's divil a shtop to yer tongue.—Detroit Free Press.

Clothed Their Remarks.

They both made protestations that were most hard to believe. But he was talking through his hat. While she laughed in her sleeve.—Chicago Record.

Must Have Jarred Him.

"And then," she said in telling of the romantic episode, "she sprang to his arms."

"She did?"

"Of course. Do you doubt it?"

"Oh, no," he replied, "but, after seeing her, I can't help thinking that it must have jarred him quite a bit."—Chicago Post.

Obedient Orders.

Mrs. Naggs (at telephone)—Is my husband in the office?

Office Boy—No, ma'am.

Mrs. Naggs—When will he be in?

Office Boy—I can't say.

Mrs. Naggs—Why can't you?

Office Boy—Because he told me not to.—Chicago Daily News.

The Secret of Her Success.

"Mrs. Blith seems to be very popular with the gentlemen. They all seem to be very anxious to have a word with her. Is she a brilliant conversationalist?"

"No, she is not a brilliant conversationalist; but she makes every man think he is."—Leslie's Weekly.

A Horse Note.

"I always did believe in exercise," said the old mule, who was in a reminiscent mood, "but I must confess I never enjoyed taking it on the tow-path."

Explanatory.

Ethel (aged six)—What does "alphabetical order" mean, Johnny?

Johnny (aged seven)—Oh, that's when ma orders us to mind our p's and q's!—Judge.

The Real Trouble.

"There is one trouble about the man who knows it all."

"What is that?"

"So many of the things that he knows are not true."—Towa Topics.

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