

## RUSSIAN INTEREST IN FIRST PARLIAMENT

PEOPLE GREATLY IMPRESSED WITH COMING EVENT.—HISTORY OF BUILDING.

Special to the Herald.

St. Petersburg, May 5.—In all those countries of the civilized world in which the people know no other than a constitutional form of government it is difficult to comprehend the intense interest with which the people of this country are looking forward to the assembling of the first Russian parliament next week.

A most elaborate program for the opening of the parliament has been prepared. The ceremony will be attended by the pomp and circumstance benefitting the importance of the event. Imperial heralds will pass through the streets summoning the representatives of the people, and an imposing military escort will accompany the czar to the Tauride Palace, where parliament will assemble.

Curiously enough, the old Tauride Palace has always been most closely connected with absolute autocracy. It was constructed by Catherine II, and bestowed upon Prince Potemkin, her most enduring favorite. At this palace Prince Potemkin gave the historic banquet at which the prodigality and splendor rivalled the feasts of Nero and the Roman emperors. Potemkin received the guests in a uniform blazing with diamonds and a headdress so heavy with gems and gold that its weight had to be supported by an aide-de-camp.

The palace was supposed to be modelled after the Pantheon at Athens, but it is far from a pure classic type, being in reality an odd mixture of Greek and Pompeian architecture. From the main building, the facade of which is Greek, with portico columns and tympanum, project the wings which sweep to the rear, inclosing a garden with fountains and statuary. The main entrance is through the portico, which is supported by six large granite pillars.

The hall, where the representative assembly will be held, occupies the major portion of the central wing, the entry for members being opposite the main portal and reached by passing through two intervening lobbies and a long corridor. It is rectangular in shape, with a large semi-circular alcove or bay, inclosed in glass, project from one end of the garden in the rear. It is little more than half the size of the hall of the House of Representatives at Washington, or about twice the size of the hall of the British House of Commons. It is well lighted from above, as well as from the glass alcove, and the seats of the 564 members, somewhat cramped, rise tier upon tier in a semi-circular form upon a steeply inclined floor.

The domed walls of the bay act as an immense sounding board for the tribune of the president, which stands before it, flanked on one side by the ministerial bench, with seats for twelve members and as many assistants, and on the other side by the desks for the official reporter and newspaper correspondents. The public gallery, over the last row of seats, is small and would seem to indicate that the government has no desire to have the "mob" overawe the assembly.

The walls of the hall are paneled in white. The furniture is of oak. The members are not provided with individual desks, but sit behind "forms," built up in continuous semicircles. The precautions that have been taken to have everything firmly fastened down would seem to indicate that tumultuous scenes in the new parliament are anticipated. Special measures have been taken to deaden the floor to prevent obstructionists from stopping the proceedings by stamping.

### Comets' Tails.

Clearness of the atmosphere has much to do with the apparent length of comets' tails. In clear tropical skies or in the rarefied atmosphere of mountainous countries the tails of such bodies can be traced much farther than they can by European observers or those of temperate America. The apparent length of such appendages by no means indicates anything of their real length and it often happens that those which appear the longest are really the shortest. This is due to the different distances which comets hold with respect to the earth. While the great comet of 1861 had a tail which stretched away more than 15,000,000 miles, its apparent length was five times that distance. The great Donati comet, with a tail which appeared only half as long as that of 1861, was really 50,000,000 miles in length. The comet of 1861 was only about 13,000,000 miles from us, while Donati's was at least four times as remote, a circumstance that would account for its apparent lack of tail. The great comet of the year 1080 and that of 1843 each had a tail of enormous length. The length of the tail of that of the last mentioned date has been estimated at 180,000,000 miles—the longest of any comet that has yet been observed. The comet of 1080 had a tail 90,000,000 miles in length.

## THE ELYSEE PALACE.

Checked Career of the White House of France.

The Elysee palace, situated in the Rue Faubourg Saint-Honore, is a cross between a country house and a hotel. It has had a checked career since its erection in 1718 and has harbored some queer characters. Louis V. presented it to Mme. de Pompadour. Who knows how many lettres de cachet went out of the gates to imprison those who lampooned her? Under Louis XVI. it was called the Elysee Bourbon. During the revolution it became national property, was put up for sale, found a purchaser and was turned into a government printing office. During the directorate there were gay doings in the fine old rooms, and the merveilleuses and incroyables danced and gambled from sunset to sunrise. The rooms were let to a syndicate who made a large fortune out of the speculation. Since then the palace has been occupied by Murat, Napoleon I., Louis Bonaparte and Queen Hortense, Alexander I. of Russia and the Duc de Berri. After the revolution of 1830 it remained unoccupied until Louis Napoleon made it his residence while he was president of the republic. Nearly all the subsequent presidents of the present republic have added to it. The large glass awning seen from the Faubourg, called by the scoffers "the monkey palace," was the work of Carnot. His also is the large ballroom. The left wing was built by Louis Napoleon, and Grey added a room overlooking the garden. None of the presidents seem to fancy its state bedroom, nor do they write at the Louis XVI. table, ornamented with brass work chiseled by Goultiere. They have one and all preferred to furnish small rooms away from the solemn state apartments and use an ordinary desk such as we find in any office.—Boston Transcript.

### Lincoln the Lawyer.

It is conceded by all his contemporaries that Lincoln was the best all around jury lawyer of his day in Illinois. Undoubtedly his knowledge of human nature played an important part in his success. He possessed another quality, however, which is almost if not quite as essential in jury work, and that is clearness and simplicity of statement. His logical marshaled facts in such orderly sequence and he interpreted them in such simple language that a child could follow him through the most complicated case, and his mere recital of the issues had the force of argument.—Fredrick Trevor Hill in Century.

### An Explorer's Stratagem.

Sir Harry Johnston, the famous explorer, once escaped from a very tight corner in Africa by a queer stratagem. A score or two of murderous natives had surrounded his tent, into which, before rushing in, they sent an envoy. The envoy was told the smallpox was in the camp, and a wretched Albino was sent out as the awful example. In five minutes the scared tribesmen had vanished. As Sir Harry well knew, they feared the "white disease" more than all the inventions of Maxim.

### His Works.

"A man is known by his works," declared the irrepresible reformer, who was addressing a large and enthusiastic audience. "Yours must be a gas works!" shouted a rude, uncultured person who occupied a back seat.

### Obliged to Move.

"What, you are not going to move again?" said Mr. Jones to his brother. "I thought you liked your little flat." "So we did when we moved in, but my wife has gained ten pounds, and we need more room."

Good nature is the very air of a good mind, the sign of a large and generous soul and the peculiar soil in which virtue prospers.—Goodman.

The Herald prints everything for the trade.

## A POPULAR REMEDY

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They recommend it.

## NATIONAL CONGRESS AMERICAN MOTHERS

WILL BE IN SESSION IN LOS ANGELES, CAL., NEXT WEEK.—A GREAT CROWD TO ATTEND.

Special to the Herald.

Los Angeles, Cal., May 5.—The advance guard of delegates and visitors to the National Congress of Mothers, which meets in annual session in Los Angeles during the coming week, arrived today. The attendance promises to be unusually large.

Mrs. Frederick Schoff of Philadelphia will preside over the gathering, and many noted women will be among the speakers. The topics slated for discussion include the following:

The child in the home, in the school and in the state. Deficiencies in child care revealed by the juvenile court.

How to help the delinquent. Probation work.

The runaway and the truant. Child labor.

Moral education.

The theocracy of the common hierarchy, and marriage and divorce in the United States.

Before the convention is opened the location of the next annual meeting is already being discussed. A dozen cities want it. James M. Va., has sent an invitation to the officers, urging them to bring the congress there during the exposition next year. Atlanta is enthusiastic and will work with the executive committee, to whom is left the selection of a meeting place. Chicago and several other cities are also prepared to make formal application for the gathering. Every third year the congress meets in Washington, according to the constitution.

### POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

Of all the words in the English language "don't tell" are paid the least attention.

The only trouble with experience as a teacher is that the knowledge she gives comes too late.

The trouble with the average father being prepared for a rainy day is that his daughter's wedding day gets him first.

Don't cultivate that habit of looking for something to worry about. You may some day have your search rewarded.

Sometimes people complain of their individuality being crushed out, when it would really be the best thing that could happen to them.

Gratitude is a strange thing never find it where it should be, but in cases where there is seeming little or nothing to be grateful for abundantly.—Atchison Globe.

### Alleviating Circumstance.

It distressed Miss Willing to find how much the little girls in her Sunday school class thought about dress and outward adorning. She never had an opportunity to tell them how slight was the importance of such things.

"The reason I didn't come last Sunday was because my coat wasn't finished," said small Mary Potter one day when questioned as to her non-appearance the week before. "My old one had spots on it that wouldn't come off and a place where the buttons had torn through."

"But, Mary, dear," said the teacher gently, "you know it's not the outside that really matters."

"Yes, I know," said little Mary, "but, Miss Willing, mother had ripped the lining out, so there wasn't any inside to look at!"—Youth's Companion.

### The Strenuous Life of Old.

This is said to be a "strenuous" age. Doctors or people who dabble in the doctor's art talk about the "pace" we all live now, the stress and storm of life in England in the twentieth century, and so forth. But are we all so tremendously strenuous? Are we greater in will or work than Englishmen were in the Elizabethan age or than they were, say—we take date at random—in 1800? English literature and history do not show convincingly that this is so.—London Saturday Review.

### No Thoroughfare.

Characteristic of the readiness of the Celt is a reply noted in "Leaves From the Diary of Henry Greville."

"I cannot get over your nose," said a frank American woman to the Irish novelist, Colley Grattan, whose nose was flattened.

"No wonder you can't," he retorted, "for the bridge is broken."

### Bad Arguments.

The historic incident of a young Tory heir to a dukedom being pelted with rotten eggs while making a political speech is, "Ah," he remarked, wiping the mess from his face, "I have always said that the arguments of my opponents were unsound."

### Also When is a Sea Dog?

"Maw!" "What is it, Johnny?" "Do the ocean greyhounds ever bite the ocean tramps?"—Louisville Courier Journal.

Men are so constituted that everybody undertakes what he sees another successful in, whether he has aptitude for it or not.—Goethe.

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It is important to land owners that they have their lands abstracted and titles examined now, as defects in the titles can be more easily cured now than at some future date. We have Notary Public in the office and are prepared to take affidavits, write deeds, etc.

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