

THE FILIPINO CONGRESS.

Description of Its Opening by the Famous Insurgent Leader, Aguinaldo.

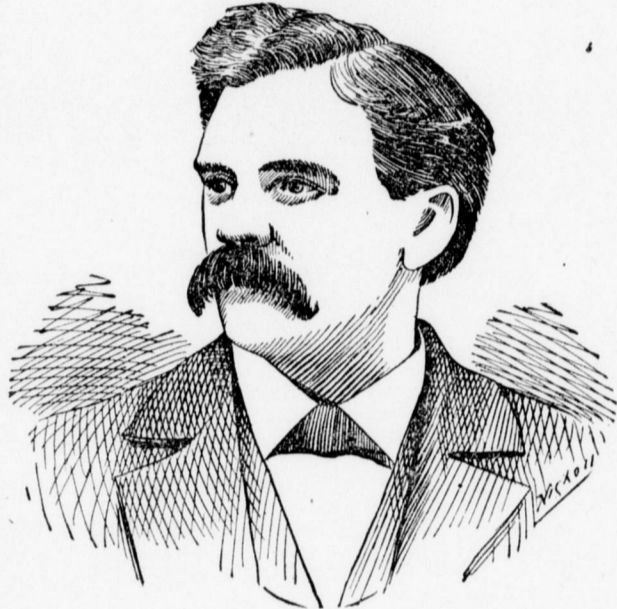
At last, to the sound of the national march, the delegates moved in a body to the door and then back again, divided, and then Aguinaldo, looking very undersized and very insignificant, came marching down, bearing an ivory stick with gold head and gold cord and tassels, says Harper's Weekly. A group of tall, fine-looking generals and one or two dignitaries in black accompanied him, and half surrounded him as they walked along. Mounting the chancel steps, Aguinaldo took the middle seat behind the table, the acting secretary of the interior took the place on his right, and a general occupied the carved chair on his left. Without any formal calling to order, the secretary rose and read the list of delegates, and sat down again. Then Aguinaldo stood

POLITENESS FOR NOTHING.

The Gallant Action of a Man Brings Only Humiliation at the Hands of a Proud Woman.

A stylishly attired woman was seen walking down Washington street the other day, attracting considerable attention by her fine figure and graceful carriage. Men turned to glance after her and women managed to see the sweep of her skirt and the cut of her coat behind out of the corners of their eyes without turning around at all, a habit most women have. At all events the woman was stunning and a young artist, turning to obtain a third look at her, saw to his delight that she dropped her purse. Hurriedly he ran to where the object lay and stooped down to get it. At the same instant a ragged Italian woman made a grab at it, says the Chicago Chronicle. The young artist got it and the woman got it, and both were determined to

BRIGHAM H. ROBERTS.



This gentleman has recently been elected to congress from the state of Utah. His political and personal opponents assert that he is not only a powerful polygamist partisan, but also one of the most successful missionaries of the Mormon church. Besides having been elected to the house of representatives, Mr. Roberts and his friends have captured the state legislature and will send two United States senators to fight for the interests of polygamy in Washington. The republicans will contest Mr. Roberts' election in the house.

up, and after the feeble vivas had ceased, took a paper from his pocket, and in a low voice, without gestures and without emphasis, and in the hesitating manner of a schoolboy, read his message in the Tagalog language. Only once was he interrupted by vivas, and that was when he alluded to the three great free nations—England, France, and America—as worthy models for imitation. He next read a purported translation in Spanish with even more difficulty, and when he had finished here was quite a round of cheers, proposed and led by the veteran general, Buencamino, for the president, the republic, and victorious army, and for the town of Malolos. Then Aguinaldo arose and declared the meeting adjourned until it should reassemble prepared to elect officers and to organize in the regular manner.

Some English Emigrants.

Up till now, if the inhabitant of a Norfolk village emigrates, it is gen-

erally to America, says a writer in Longman's Magazine, and very often he does not like America when he gets there. I remember a blacksmith with whom I was well acquainted going there, but in a couple of years or so he was to be seen working at the old forge in his native village. I asked him why he had come back, and he told me that he had earned plenty of money out there, but he "didn't like it." When I was in New York a tailor came to see me who had been an apprentice here in Bungay. He told me the same story. Plenty of money, especially at times, but he "meant to get back as soon as he could." Also I had a conversation with an English coachman whose tale was much the same. His wages were large, but "there weren't no society for such as him;" in the states they were all "gents or niggers."

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Earth's Hottest Region.

The hottest region on the earth is on the southwest coast of Persia, where Persia borders the gulf of the same name. For 40 consecutive days in July and August the thermometer has not fallen lower than 100 degrees, night or day, and often mounted as high as 125 degrees.

Lotteries in Montreal.

It is estimated by the police of Montreal that the people of that city spend over \$2,500,000 a year on lotteries. The number of policy tickets bought annually is about 6,000,000.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

Wife of the Devil's Island Victim on the Situation.

She Points Out a Number of Reasons for Believing Her Husband Innocent of the Terrible Crime of Treason.

The London correspondent of the New York Journal has just secured from Mme. Dreyfus a statement in which she demonstrates the innocence of her husband, the exiled French military officer. Mme. Dreyfus declares without reserve that the bordereau was the work of Esterhazy. She signs the following:

First—Men of honor do not betray their country. My husband was a man of honor. All who know him admit that.

Second—I can conceive of no motive to induce him to commit such an act of treason. He dearly loves France. He had a splendid future in prospect. He was not in need of money. He was a man of independent means. He has always guarded with jealous care the fair name of his family. He has even given orders that all his fortune be expended in rehabilitating that name.

Third—My husband constantly and in the most solemn manner professes his innocence.

Fourth—France imitates the example of Russia in her blind prejudice against the Jews. This is the reason why it has been so difficult to let the light shine upon my husband's innocence.

Fifth—Most of the intellectual persons of France believe in the innocence of Capt. Dreyfus. His well-regulated life and his rapid military advancement induced them to look into his case. The leading newspapers in Paris hold that he is innocent.

Sixth—He was condemned upon evidence which was never shown to him nor to his counsel. The irregularity and the illegality of his condemnation are no longer denied. The laws of evidence did not govern the trial of Capt. Dreyfus.

Seventh—The character of the men who are most bitterly opposed to my



CAPT. DREYFUS. (From a Picture Taken After His Degradation.)

husband is such that it establishes a strong presumption in favor of his innocence. Take the chief specimens—Marquis de Mores, the most violent Jew-baiter of his time; Col. Sandherr, who died in a madhouse; Commandant de Patty de Clam, who fears to face the charge of forgery; Col. Henry, the confessed forger and suicide; and Esterhazy, the unspeakable.

Eighth—Of the experts who examined the bordereau, upon which he was condemned, three declared that it was not in my husband's handwriting. Everybody knows now that the bordereau was the work of Esterhazy.

Ninth—Henry's forgery is in itself sufficient evidence that in the judgment of the men who opposed Capt. Dreyfus his condemnation needed propping up. This forgery was "la preuve absolue," which M. Cavaignac, when minister of war, recently read out to wildly enthusiastic deputies as putting the guilt of my husband beyond any ray.

Tenth—The seven officers who constituted the court-martial would not have condemned him were it not that, after their deliberations had been concluded, Gen. Mercier flourished before their excited eyes documents which he said were proofs of my husband's guilt. These documents were not examined, and were forgeries.

Eleventh—M. Goebert, the best living authority on graphology, says that the bordereau is not in the handwriting of Capt. Dreyfus.

Twelfth—It is now clear that the war department has broken down in its efforts to sustain a case against my husband.

Thirteenth—The four journalists who led the newspaper campaign against my husband are palpably unworthy of credence. Drumont, of the Libre Parole, praises Lucheni, the murderer of the empress of Austria; Deroulede is crazy upon the Jew question; Millevoje, of the Patrie, blundered before in the Norton forgery, and a bete noir is the breath of his nostrils to Rochefort of the Intransigent.

Fourteenth—The specific accusations made by Zola in his famous letter, "J'accuse," are turning out to be wonderfully accurate.

Fifteenth—The conductors of the campaign against my husband have hesitated at no crime. Forgery, robbery, conspiracy, duplicity, lying, and perhaps murder have been resorted to to keep my husband in chains.

Rough on the Priest.
It used to be the custom, when the chief priest of one of the Congo tribes showed symptoms of illness to kill him forthwith, either by strangling or by the aid of a club, the natives believing that if he were allowed to die by disease all the rest of the world would perish.

SUNNY SIBERIA.

All of the Land is Not Blank and Desolate as Generally Supposed—Vegetation is Luxuriant.

Thomas G. Allen, Jr., who, some years ago made a tour of the world on wheels, has written an article on "The Boys of Siberia" for St. Nicholas. Mr. Allen says: "As dreary and cold as Siberia" is an expression that has come to be almost a proverb. The very name has always conjured up a scene of desolation and perpetual winter, enlivened, perhaps, by a band of criminal exiles plodding along some lonely highway or practically buried alive in some gloomy mine pit. In imagination we have even heard the clanking of prison chains, the moaning of suffering men, and the sobs of distressed women. And yet, however displeasing the picture which the name of Siberia never fails to con-

THE BANANA PLANTER.

In Honduras He is a Creature Whose Philosophic Calm is Never Disturbed.

"The small banana planter of Honduras is the happiest creature on earth," said a local shipper, reports the New Orleans Times-Democrat, "and nothing ever removes him from his philosophic calm. The frightful hurricane which raged along the Honduran coast on the 1st of the month absolutely destroyed scores of plantations. The trees were plucked out of the earth like blades of grass, the fragile buildings were blown into kindling wood, and nothing whatever left to tell the tale. Happening anywhere else, such a disaster would have been a tragedy of the first order, and meant incalculable suffering, but nature is very kind to her children on the banana

RABBI GUSTAV GOTTHIEL, D. D.



This famous Jewish preacher has just finished a quarter of a century of successful labor as spiritual head of the famous temple Emanuel, at New York. Rabbi Gotthiel is to the Israelites of the United States what Cardinal Gibbons is to the Catholic church and Bishop Potter to the Episcopalians. The rabbi was born at Pinné, Prussia, May 20, 1827. He received a splendid education at the best schools of Europe, served as rabbi of the congregation at Manchester, England, for 13 years, and then came to the United States. His labors in New York have been characterized by wonderful success.

vey, its mysterious and melancholy associations have ever exerted a strange fascination. I must confess that I have been no exception to the general rule. At a very early age I developed the desire to visit this mysterious country, and to discover for myself, if possible, some of its terrible hidden secrets.

"It has been my good fortune, on two recent occasions, to gratify this wayward ambition; and from what I saw and experienced I can assure my youthful reader that his general gloomy notion about the 'land of snow and exiles' is, in the main, incorrect—that there is another and a very bright side to the Siberian picture.

"Not raising the question of the deplorable Siberian exile system, I would impress upon the reader that Siberia itself, in its southern portion at least, is a region where the vegetation is as varied and luxuriant, where the birds warble just as sweetly where the children play and the people laugh and

coast. All that is necessary to rehabilitate the ravaged plantations is to stick a few clippings in the ground and wait for them to take root and bear. The work is usually divided between the planter and his wife—she sets out the clippings and he does the waiting. Some time during the year, if he is not too tired, he may rebuild his residence. This is done by tying a native rope around four suitable trees and laying cane stalks crossways over the top. Other cane stalks are now and then used for sides, but they are really unnecessary, as the Honduran conception of privacy is very vague, and there is never anything to steal. So, as a matter of fact, the hurricane was much less calamitous than it appeared to those who are unfamiliar with native conditions. The principal loss which it entailed was in damage to the present banana crop, and the fruit grows with such rapidity that three months ought to completely repair it. Meantime, the

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A MUSICAL FOR A COBRA.



An English woman residing in India one recent evening found, to her horror, that a huge cobra had coiled itself about her veranda rail, near which she sat playing the violin. She was too near the reptile to run away, so she continued playing while she gradually edged away. The snake was fascinated by the music, and responded to every change in time. Finally the lady gradually worked herself farther and farther, and then made a sudden bolt into her room and banged the door, leaving the cobra to wander disconsolately to its lair in the fields.

sing just as cheerfully, as in our own country. In fact, that portion of Siberia which is now reached by the new Trans-Siberian railway might very justly be called the northern 'promised land of milk and honey'; for in its teeming soil, genial summer climate, and fabulous mineral wealth it is second to none in the world."

Caring for Hindoo Dead.
The Hindoos consider their dead as sacred and do not allow them to be handled by alien hands, the nearest male relative—son, father or brother—preparing the body for burial, and if there be none of these relatives a son is adopted by the family for the purpose.

The Queen's Footmen.
Queen Victoria's footmen wear wigs, which have eight rows of curls, whereas those of the prince of Wales are allowed seven rows, and those of the lord mayor of London are given six rows.

planter does quantities of resting and is happy."

Feathers for Fashion.
Manufacturers of artificial birds buy directly from the farmers and make up their stock with no particular regard for the accurate representation of a species. Just at present the birds in fashion for mourning hats are small black parrots, and there are no such birds in nature. A fashion is in vogue to match the costume in the plumage of the bird trimmings, and manufacturers use their best art to supply the demand. Sooner or later this fashion will be the means of establishing regular farms for the production of feathers for millinery purposes.

Bells Worn by Girls.
In the eighteenth century Polish ladies obliged their daughters to wear little bells in order to proclaim where they were all the time.

POPULATION OF EUROPE.

Disquieting Statistics Which Upset Many Preconceived Notions of the Old Countries.

It has popularly been supposed that the population of the monarchies and unstable republics of Europe was declining, or if not declining, increasing at a ratio so small as to be almost imperceptible. For nearly half a century there has been a steady stream of emigration from European countries to the United States, South America and Australia, and no increase of population in any European country from immigration from other countries than Europe. The devastating wars which, theoretically, at least, reduce the population of all military countries abroad, have operated to the disadvantage of many lands, and especially those which have maintained colonies the pacification of which requires military operations.

Again, the decrease of the birth rate in some European countries has been the subject of abstruse controversy among physicians and men of science, and yet it appears from official figures at hand that the increase in the total population of Europe during the past ten years has been nearly ten per cent., a statement which, published in the Revue Francaise de l'Etranger, of Paris, has obtained corroboration in other countries, and the correctness of which is proved by the records of countries in which there have been censuses recently.

At the beginning of the present century the population of Europe was put by Levasseur at 175,000,000. In 1830 it was 220,000,000. In 1860 it was 290,000,000, and in 1890 it was 350,000,000. It is now 380,000,000, and the continuance of the present rate of increase will make it 385,000,000 in 1900, ten per cent. increase over what it was in 1890.

The yearly emigration from Europe is about 500,000 at present, or 5,000,000 in a decade. In the absence of newcomers to make up this decrease and in view of the backward and unprogressive condition of many European countries, it might be supposed that there would be no vast gain of population, but the contrary of this is shown. The number of inhabitants is increasing all the time, although the means of maintaining them are not increasing in like ratio. These are the figures given of the increases in European countries during the past ten years: Russia, 14.5 per cent.; Germany, 11.5; Austria-Hungary, 9.6; England, 3.5; Italy, 4.5; France, 0.8. At this rate in 100 years Russia would have 228,000,000 inhabitants, Germany, 106,000,000; Austria, 79,000,000; England, 65,000,000; Italy, 44,000,000, and France, 40,000,000.

The modest estimate which this French statistician makes of the growth of population in his own country may, perhaps, disarm the answering criticism of the German statistician whose profound ethical treatment of "ratios" in population has already outrun many volumes of Leipsic, Berlin and Dresden publications, but the English and Scotch statisticians are not thus easily satisfied, and the Scotch statisticians especially are obdurate when asked to revise, correct, amend, or in any way modify their conclusions, as to the population of other countries, although in respect of the population of Scotland they are less steadfast. Possibly this is due to the fact that the population of Scotland varies comparatively little, though there has been a remarkable growth in late years of the population of its chief cities. The present population of Glasgow is in excess of 700,000, Edinburgh has 300,000, and Aberdeen 125,000.—N. Y. Sun.

GROUND IS THEIR TELEPHONE.

Amazon River Natives Talk from Camp to Camp by Means of a Novel Invention.

There are many claimants to the honor of having been the first to invent the telephone, and the fact is that few people really know who was the inventor. It is generally attributed to Edison, but it seems that that sorcerer had nothing whatever to do with it. At any rate, it seems that it is anything but a modern idea.

Travelers in the district of the Amazon tell us that the Catuquinaru Indians, since time immemorial, have been accustomed to correspond from one camp to another by means of a little device that recalls to one the small toy parchment telephones we used to play with in the days of our childhood.

They bury a hollow wooden cylinder in the earth, filling it half full of sand, fragments of bone and pulverized mica. The upper part remains empty, and is closed by a piece of leather, wood or indiarubber. This instrument is called a "cambarysu."

In the next camp, perhaps 1,600 yards away, is another similar instrument. When one camp wishes to correspond with the other, they strike violently with a mallet on the cambarysu, and the sound is transmitted by the earth to the cambarysu of the other camp.

As soon as the inhabitants hear the signal they answer by a similar one, and then two individuals, putting their ears near the apparatus, can converse as easily as we can at a London telephone. A traveler who has investigated this primitive telephone says that he is inclined to think that the nature of the soil has something to do with the wonderful transmission of sound.—London Chronicle.

Courage of Ignorance.
Manager—Your play is marvelous good. Its one fault is that it is beyond the abilities of my company.
Tankpleigh—Then how can I get it produced?
"You can easily get an amateur company to undertake it."—Roxbury Gazette.

First Made by Monks.
Champagne was first made by monks in the seventeenth century.