

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

An incessant downpour of rain for ten successive days has done incalculable damage to the crops in many parts of Germany. In some districts the harvest is completely ruined. The grain crops of all descriptions, which by this time should have been nearly all harvested, lie rotting in the fields. The disaster is all the greater and more disappointing, since for seventy years past Germany has not had the promise of so abundant a harvest as that of the present year.

The attention of the postal authorities at Washington has been brought to the fact that Great Britain has not only prohibited the circulation through the mails of certain newspapers which contain matter inimical to the interests of the government, but that registered letters and packages suspected of containing seditious information are similarly treated. Postmaster-General Howe holds that England has the right to exercise this espionage under the postal convention agreement of 1878.

A Chinaman returning home from America with \$500 in his pocket is considered as rich there as a man is here when he returns from the mines of the West with a fortune of as many thousands of dollars which he has dugged out of the earth, so that it is not altogether strange that not more than twenty-five per cent. of the Chinese who leave the United States for their native land take out certificates allowing them to come back. No more Chinamen can land in California, but it is feared that large bodies of "laborers" will come into the country through British Columbia, Vancouver's Island furnishing a convenient port.

The contrast between the military and civil method of dealing with persons accused of cruelty to animals is illustrated by the case of Corporal Kelly, recently disposed of by court-martial at Jefferson barracks, at St. Louis. Kelly, the soldier referred to, so brutally and cruelly beat a government horse that the shooting of the animal to prevent suffering was necessitated. Kelly was fined one dollar and costs in the civil court. For the military offense he was tried by general court-martial, found guilty and sentenced to be dishonorably discharged from the service of the United States, forfeiting all pay, and allowances, and to be confined at hard labor in the military prison at Leavenworth for six months.

A Philadelphia artist who saw Arabi in Alexandria last winter draws this sketch of his personal appearance: "A tall, heavy-faced man, sullen, swarthy, with only a pretty clear eye to soften the general harshness of expression, and a black mustache to hide a not particularly finely curved mouth. His legs are as unattractive as his face. The underpinning looks too frail for the rest of the body. He is a bulky man, not pussy or Falstaffian in girth, but a broad, thick-chested fellow, built on the lobster pattern. Take him from his heavy head to his spindle legs, Arabi Pacha reminds one more of a negro than of the agreeable and pleasant-faced gentlemen one meets among the Arabs and Egyptians."

A special flag for the President of the United States has been made, to be carried at the masthead of government vessels when the chief executive is on board. It is fourteen feet long by eleven feet broad. The material is navy blue bunting. In the center is the American coat of arms, the American eagle holding in its month the pen, on which is inscribed "E Pluribus Unum," perched on a shield, grasping in one claw a bunch of arrows, and in the other a bunch of oak leaves above the coat of arms. Arranged in a semi-circle are thirteen white stars, representing the thirteen original States. One will be placed on board of each United States vessel, and whenever the President goes aboard one of these vessels the President's flag will fly from the masthead.

The population of France remains almost stationary, although the country suffers comparatively little loss from emigration. The census just completed shows a population of 37,672,048, against 36,905,788 December 31, 1876. The population in May, 1866, before the loss of territory in the Franco-German war, was 38,067,064. By the war France suffered a loss of 5,385 square miles in territory and of 1,964,143 in population, the population in May, 1872, being only 36,102,921. Some of the loss was made up by immigration, yet notwithstanding this the country has now a population less by 400,000 than it had sixteen years ago. At the present rate of increase of population in Great Britain and Ireland, the United Kingdom will within

the next decade have a larger population than the French Republic.

Long Bey, the American consul at Alexandria, after serving in the civil war, at its close went to Egypt and took part with the khedive. Life in the Egyptian army being too quiet, he joined an exploring party into the recesses of the desert. He was the first white man who ever visited King M'Tesi, and wrote a book of travel entitled, "Naked Truths of Naked People." On his return he became consul, and appears to have been of great assistance, not only to Americans, but to the people of other countries, previous to and since the bombardment. His knowledge of the Arab language enables him to deal directly with the natives, without that compulsive recourse to the interpreter which seems to have been the cause of much disaster.

That the native population of the Sandwich islands was steadily diminishing has been notorious for years, and some statistics recently compiled present a startling picture of the extent to which foreigners have already supplanted the original inhabitants. The whole number of persons assessed for taxation in the kingdom is 30,899, of whom only a bare majority—15,525—are Hawaiians, while they pay but \$112,796 in taxes, or considerably less than a third of the \$385,212 raised from all nationalities. The Chinese come next in numbers, 11,004 Mongolians being assessed for \$74,614; but the Americans, though only 1,310 in all, pay \$102,567, while 827 British pay \$51,898; 299 Germans, among whom are some of the largest sugar planters, pay \$25,128. The Americans, British and Germans, numbering altogether less than 2,500, thus pay much more in taxes than the natives, and as the foreign element increases in population and wealth year by year, the islands promise at no distant day to be Hawaiian only in name.

A deputation of Maori chiefs from New Zealand have been in London trying to lay before the queen a narrative of the wrongs under which they are perishing. The government will not receive or recognize them, will not allow them to see the queen, nor offer their petition. To their bewildered questioning, the reply of the foreign office is: "We have a colonial office in New Zealand, and cannot receive complaints or communications except through that office." But that office is the very thing they have to complain about, for it imprisons them in order to confiscate their lands, and outrages them in many ways. The chiefs attended a brilliant reception, and their leader, an old man, with his face all tattoo, was invited to make an address. After speaking awhile through an interpreter, he began a low chant, much like the recitative of a priest before an altar. Some of the company laughed, but soon perceived that hilarity was inappropriate. Then there was a hush, and the pathos of the old man's tones made its impression. The interpreter said that it was an improvisation, in which he said that he felt grateful for this sympathy, but still he could only think of his poor country, and though he would carry back with him memories of kindness received, he would have to carry them back in a broken heart.

There are now two secret societies at St. Petersburg established for the protection of the emperor against the Nihilists. One is called "The Holy League," the other "The Volunteer Guard." The leader of "The Holy League," whose aim is simply to prevent attempts upon the emperor's life, is M. Pobedonosheff. "The Volunteer Guard," on the other hand, which is led by Count Woroutzoff-Daschkoff, has formed itself into a political party and strives to influence the general policy of the empire. The following are the principal points of its programme: (1) The transfer of the financial and political administration with the exception of all matters relating to the supreme court of justice and the political police, to the provincial assemblies, and free election of the local authorities; (2) the raising, collection and expenditure of all indirect taxes to be also transferred to the provincial assemblies; (3) the assessment of these taxes according to the amount of the taxpayer's property; (4) the exemption of the communes from the payment of emancipation fees in respect of uncultivated land, and the grant of land to such communes as are unable to provide for their maintenance out of the produce of their existing holdings; and (5) the convocation of a general parliament on the day of the coronation, for the purpose of discussing the bases of a constitution. The programme received the approval of Gen-

eral Ignatieff, whose recommendation of it to the emperor is said to have been the cause of his dismissal, and the rival society, "The Holy League," is now predominant at the Russian court.

Language of the Face.

Round-eyed persons see much, live much in the senses, but think less. Narrow-eyed persons, on the other hand, see less but think and feel more intensely. It will be observed that the eyes of children are open and round. Their whole life is to receive impressions. It is only when childhood is maturing toward manhood or womanhood that thought comes, if it comes at all. But what is it that most leads to reflection? Experience. Our errors, our shortcomings, our failures—these teach us to think before we act, to consider each step, to weigh each motive. When, therefore, the upper eyelid—for it is that which has the greatest amount of mobility—droops over the eye, it indicates not merely reflection but something painful to reflect about. Hence the length or drooping of the upper eyelid betokens confession and penitence.

The drooping of half of the eyelids from the outer angle of the center indicates the disposition to confess one's faults to parents or seniors, to a "father confessor," or to the Supreme Being. The drooping of half the eyelids from the inner angle to the center betokens the disposition to repent and to "do works meet for repentance." Closely allied to these sights are those of prayerfulness and humility. The former is indicated by the muscle which turns the eye directly downward, as represented in the pictures of the Madonna. Prayerfulness is usually large in connection with that of penitence, the reason of which is that between the faculties of penitence and humility there is the same close connection as between confession and prayer. One who has habitually more prayer than humility has the eye turned somewhat upward so that the upward part of the iris is a little covered by the upper eyelid, and so as to leave a slight space between the iris and the lower lid. The reverse is true of one who has more humility than prayer.

The faculty of truth—that is, the love of it—is indicated by the muscle which surrounds the eye, causing folds and wrinkles. Justice is indicated by the muscle which causes perpendicular wrinkles between the eyebrows. Fullness and wrinkles under the eye, for which some persons are remarkable, indicate the love of mathematical accuracy; and wrinkles curving upward from the outer angle of the eye and eyebrow indicate probity or personal truthfulness. There are three degrees of the faculty of justice. The first is a kind of exactness or strict honesty in small money matters, which some people would call closeness, and is indicated by a singular perpendicular wrinkle or line between the eyebrows. The second is the disposition to require justice in others, and is indicated by two perpendicular lines or wrinkles, one on each side of the center—a very common sign. The third degree is conscientiousness, or the disposition to apply the rule of justice to one's self, and is indicated by three or more wrinkles or lines, especially noticeable, extending above the eyebrow when the muscle is in action. The love of command is indicated by one or more short, transverse wrinkles across the root of the nose, exactly between the eyes. It may be seen in great military commanders, in masters and teachers, and in those generally who are fond of exercising authority. In those who are wanting in the power to command, and have no desire for responsibility, this sign is also absent. The faculty of command frequently acts with that part of justice which reprimands, or requires others to do right, and both together produce that frowning and lowering brow which is so terrible to evil-doers, or to those who love to be approved rather than condemned.—*Phrenological Magazine.*

Archimedes' Lever.

The famous Greek philosopher Archimedes was the author of the apothegm, "Give me a lever long enough and a prop strong enough and I will move the world." The saying arose from his knowledge of the possible effects of machinery; and, however much it might astonish a Greek of his day, would now be readily admitted to be theoretically possible as it is practically impossible; for in the words of Dr. Arnott, "Archimedes would have required to move with the velocity of a cannon ball for millions of years to alter the position of the earth by a small part of an inch. This feat Archimedes is, in mathematical truth performed by every man who leaps from the ground, for he kicks the world away from him whenever he rises, and attracts it again when he falls."

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

The English Woman's Skin.

A writer in an English fashion paper is moved to inquire whether the natural whiteness of the English woman's skin is a myth, inasmuch as statistics show that no less than 7,000 swans' skins are annually imported into London alone for the exclusive manufacture of the puffs used for the purpose of laying powder on the face. Every swan's skin makes about sixty puffs, which would make an annual consumption of 420,000 puffs. The same statistics say that tons of rice and wheat powder are consumed annually in England.

American Titled Ladies.

The number of American ladies who sport titles is quite large. It is said the most intimate friend of Queen Victoria for the last thirty years is an American lady, Mrs. Van der Weyer; Lady Randolph Churchill, Lady Mandeville; Lady Anglesey, Lady Harcourt, Lady John Lister Kaye, Lady Fermor-Hesketh and Lady Colin Campbell are all Americans; the Princess de Lynar of Berlin came from Columbus, Ohio; the Princess de Noer, a cousin of Victoria by marriage, and sister-in-law of the dowager queen of Denmark, was a Miss Lee, of New York; the Duchess Laute Della Novere was a Miss Davis; the Princess Louis de Bourbon, the Duchess de Praslin and the Roman Princess Cenci, Brancaccio and Giustiniani are also Americans; while the crown of Holland, in the person of the late Prince of Orange, was refused five years ago by an American lady in Paris.

Story of a Spinnet.

The pedigree and vicissitudes of an antique spinnet recently presented to an Edinburgh bride are very interesting. It is the identical instrument on which Sir Walter Scott's daughters, Annie and Sophie, received their earliest music lessons, contains only thirty-six notes, and is probably just such a one as that on which Princess Charlotte, of Mecklenberg-Strelitz, was playing when she attracted the favorable attention of George III. It bears the name of "John and Hugh Watson, Edinburgh, makers, from London." After being superseded in the Scott family by a more modern piano of larger compass, Sir Walter gave it to a friend who had little girls, in 1817, and in whose schoolroom it did good service for twelve years. The owners did not like to part with it, and it accompanied them through many changes, serving for several years as a lobby table, undertaking a weary journey in 1854, and being placed in the corner of a bath-room, where it remained till 1872, when another turn of Fortune's wheel brought it back to Edinburgh. The new owner, however, could not afford it standing room, and sought to place it in the relic-room of the Scott monument, but it was thought too large for admission. The legs were consequently taken off and suspended from the roof of a butler's pantry, while the trunk reposed ignominiously under a bed. Now that the craze for everything antique has set in, the old piano is regarded as a thing of joy and beauty, and, carefully encased in a coat of many colors, the groundwork whereof is a "greenery gallery" sort of cloth, occupies a place of honor among the possessions of the third generation, who prize it, not only as a relic of the author of "Waverley" but as a "quite too intensely precious" ornament of their drawing-room.

Fashion Notes.

Embossed plushes will be in favor. Ball buttons are no longer fashionable.

Shades in olives will be particularly good.

Terra cotta in all its shades is the coming color.

Quantities of ribbons are used in dress garniture.

The latest in both large and small outons are particularly flat.

Matelasse will be used again the coming season for cloakings.

Vast assortments of fancy feathers will garnish the hats for fall.

Terra-cottas are to be produced in shades bearing closely upon the heliotrope.

Roman beads have never been more stylish; they are shown in all the new shades.

The singular combination of pale blue and dark green is being selected by many.

Velvet in dark shades and short pile plushes will be largely used for dress purposes.

Pale nun's gray is in vogue, but is becoming to few unless combined with a brighter hue.

Nasturtiums are the leading flower to-day, and they are exquisitely brought forth in velvet.

The oddest ornaments for hats are the tiny tambourine, guitar, violin, banjo, flute, whip, drum, etc.

Heavy silk embroidery done on the dress material is to be the height of fashion the coming season.

The latest notion is to wear a small fancy-bordered handkerchief peeping out of a small pocket on the right or left hip.

Ornaments in cut steel, such as buckles, large buttons and fancy brooches will be used on fall suits of light-tinted ladies' cloth.

New woollens for fall wear have raised polka dots of silk brocaded all over their surface, either in the same shade or in a contrasting color.

Handkerchiefs with very minute colored borders, and the name embroidered in a color to match that of the border, are very popular.

Heavy corded silk material, and stuffs in silk and in worsted, figured with velvet, are among the coming novelties in the way of dress goods.

It is proposed that ladies shall adopt the Turkish style of wearing their veils next winter, that is, over the mouth, chin and nose instead of the eyes.

White dresses have occasionally the entire skirt covered with narrow flounces of Oriental lace. The basque is then trimmed with lace ruffles and cascades.

Cut steel buckles for dresses and hats are rich and elaborate, and are the harbinger of the elegant steel trimmings, which will be prominent the coming season.

White or black dresses are frequently adorned with multi-colored ribbons, hoops and long streamers, or jabots in mixtures of colors—olive, gray and pink or pale blue cardinal and terracotta, for instance, being conjoined. Primrose, bronze, brown and crimson form another fashionable combination, but the slightest error in tint destroys all the good effect. Well blended, this simple trimming sufficiently brightens the sombre toilet.

Life in Morocco.

Charles Dudley Warner says in the *Atlantic Monthly*: No sooner does one land in Africa than he passes into a sphere of tranquillity and enjoys a state of rest and calm to which all parts of Europe are strangers. The haste and flurry of life fall off, like an irksome garment shed on a hot day; time is of no more account; and worry is impossible amidst a population which moves with dignified slowness and defers all unnecessary exertion till tomorrow. Whatever may be the bustle of arrival, the clamor of boatmen, the indescribable noise and tumult and vociferation of the swarm that assails the stranger, seizes his property with a hundred hands and threatens to scatter it all over Morocco; whatever may be the tumult of the market-place, with its camels and donkeys and dervishes and conjurers and beggars in clouds, sellers of lentils and greens, and bundles of sticks for firewood, grain, sugar-candy, dates, oranges, pottery and "truck" of all sorts powdered with dust; whatever may be the impertinence of sellers, and the eagerness to act as guides of bright-eyed boys, who have a smattering of half a dozen languages, and often the courtly manner of young princes, there is, nevertheless, in all this noise and rout, a sense of underlying calm, of absence of hurry, very grateful to Europeans, whose nerves, in the development of civilization, have all worked out upon the surface. There is even something soothing in the ceaseless and monotonous tom-tom of the drums, and the skimming and plaintive attempts of the flutes to suggest the minor air they are too lazy to play, and in the spasmodic and die-away ejaculations of the musicians, who sit upon the ground, worrying away at the tunes that are a thousand years old, and will be played with the same industrious idleness a thousand years hence. It requires less energy for the performers to go on with this sort of music than to stop.

Be of Good Cheer.

A man who acquires a habit of giving way to depression is on the road to ruin. When trouble comes upon him, instead of rousing his energies to combat it, he weakens, and his faculties grow dull, and his judgment becomes obscured, and he sinks in the slough of despair. And if anybody pulls him out by main force, and places him safe on solid ground, he stands there dejected and discouraged, and is pretty sure to waste the means of help that have been given him. How different it is with the man who takes a cheery view of life even at its worst, and faces every ill with unyielding pluck! He may be swept away by an overwhelming tide of misfortune, but he bravely struggles for the shore, and is ever ready to make the most of the help that may be given him. A cheerful, hopeful, courageous disposition is an invaluable trait of character, and should be assiduously cultivated.

Methods of and Reasons for the Practice of Vivisection.

"What kind of dogs are best for vivisection purposes?"

"Most any kind is good, but short haired animals are the easiest and cleanest to work on."

"Do you place them under the influence of anaesthetics?"

"Generally we do, but occasionally we do not find it necessary. We strap them in this rack and we've got 'em and can do any work on them we want to."

The rack referred to is a trough-shaped box with its sides perforated with holes about half an inch in size, and through these holes are bits of rope. The dog is placed on its back in the trough and then by means of ropes its legs, body and head are pinned to the sides of the trough. A rope loop around the mouth is fastened to the end of the trough and the dog is ready to be operated upon.

"Is it necessary in the interests of humanity?"

"Well, you know yourself that while the science of anatomy is a very correct science, the science of physiology is constantly growing."

"Yes—I know," said the reporter, "and the progress of the science of physiology is almost wholly due to experiments in vivisection."

"Are those experiments infallible in their results?"

"Almost invariably, and it has been demonstrated beyond question by vivisection that the secret of the cause and cure of consumption is found in the germ theory."

"Then a cure for consumption should be easily found."

"So it will be, I confidently believe, and moreover I believe you and I—we are neither of us old men—and will live to see the time when consumption will be prevented by the process of inoculation, as is smallpox."

"Well, now, about these dogs. What have you been doing with them?"

"Come here, Whistler!" and a black dog, very lean and lazy, wagged its tail and walked toward the student, exhibiting a very red, meaty-looking gash in its neck. "Now this chap has had a section made in his tri-facial or fifth nerve and he is nearly well."

"What has been the effect of the work on that nerve?"

"He has lost all sensation in one side of his head. His vision is affected and he cannot suffer with the toothache."

"Well, now, what good has it done you to know this?"

"It was just such an experiment as this that prompted a doctor in the southern part of Michigan to treat a very critical case of neuralgia, by making an incision in the patient's neck and stretching a certain nerve."

"Was that a new method of treating neuralgia?"

"It was, and a very successful one, which would probably never have been discovered had it not been for vivisection."

"What other good things have been discovered by vivisection?"

"Oh, they are innumerable. Now here's a dog—'Come, Casper, come'—upon which we have made a section of the pneumogastric nerve."

"What for?"

"To show the influence of the nervous system upon the lungs, heart and stomach."

"Has it shown it?"

"Yes. Now you notice how rapidly this dog's heart beats? That indicates that the absence of the nerve takes away the restraint upon the beating of the heart, and the heart runs away."

Then a dog with a big gash in his back was brought forward, and there was visible a new growth of bone from the spine. "This is a case of bone-grafting, the object being to graft new bone in the place of old and diseased bone with a view to discover a cure for diseases of the backbone, for which no remedy is known."

"Is the experiment a success?"

"Well, you can see for yourself that there is a fine new growth of bone; that the dog is feeling well and that the wound is fast healing."

"If 'grafting' proved successful in this case would you feel warranted in making such an experiment on a human being?"

"Possibly not on the strength of one experiment, but I would after having made several successful demonstrations on inferior animals."

"Would it not be a bold and dangerous thing to do?"

"Possibly, but just such bold research disclosed to us the theory of vaccination."

"Well, that's a different thing."

"Not at all, and it was just such study of the functions of a living human body that has given to the world all that is positively known of the nervous system, and all that is positively known about the obscure functions of the human system."

"Perhaps so, but it's rather hard on the dogs."—*Detroit Free Press.*