

The political situation in Europe continues to grow darker.

The Japanese eat more fish than any other people in the world. With them meat eating is a foreign innovation, confined to the rich, or rather to those rich people who prefer it to the National diet.

The farmer who is feeding his wheat to his horses should, in the opinion of the Courier-Journal, hold both his wheat and his horses until he digests the fact that wheat will be wheat in the world's markets during the year ahead of us.

The new warships are a credit to the Nation. Recently the Philadelphia made the run from Rio de Janeiro to Callao, a distance of 5000 miles, in twenty days and eighteen hours, without stopping anywhere for coal. This was a speed of 242 miles a day and a continuous run of twenty-one days without stopping at any coaling station.

A poor old man, who once was a well-to-do merchant in Wisconsin, and likewise was of much State renown as a public speaker of force and persuasiveness, has been taken to the almshouse in Strabon, weak in mind and poverty-stricken, and past eighty years of age. "The poorhouse is hospitable when all other friends fail," is the comment of the New York Times.

Doctor J. T. Boyd, of Indianapolis, has added his voice to that of Lieutenant Totten, and declares that the end of the world is at hand. In support of his theory, he says that the British Chronological Society, composed of noted scientific men, has arrived at the same conclusions as those reached by Lieutenant Totten and himself, and that all prophecy points to 1899 as the date of final smashup.

Some idea of the enormous proportions the business of hotel keeping has assumed in this country may be gained, declares the New Orleans Picayune, from the fact that there are in the United States upward of 50,000 hotels, exclusive of what may properly be termed inns and taverns, and what are commonly known as apartment-houses, although the latter are in many instances conducted as hotels, in that they have a common kitchen and dining-room.

Deer and bears are reported to be more plentiful now in the "great woods" of Oxford County, Maine, than at any other time during the present generation. These woods extend, in a belt from four to six miles wide, from Dixfield away up into the untrodden wilderness of Northern Maine, and much of the area has seldom been visited by sportsmen. Driven from the hunting grounds about Rangeley Lake the game took refuge in these woods, and have multiplied there unmolested.

The New York News observes: Now the surgeons have cut out a man's spleen, and yet he lives and has red blood, and will, it is said, recover. No one has ever known absolutely what is the office of the spleen. The organ is not a vital one, but is often much diseased and very painful. The operation to remove it is technically called splenectomy. Many years ago a writer in Chambers's Miscellany contended that the spleen was the manufactory of the white blood corpuscles. If that were so, the red corpuscles in the veins and arteries would have soon faded in vividness in the patient, Athlete Short, of Yonkers. Are the spleen and the vermiform appendix, which are declared to be useless, left as hints of the evolutionary process? Was man differently constituted when they were useful to him, instead of being as now unnecessary? Who can say?

George Vanderbilt is one of nature's queer freaks. He is the least known of any of the enormously wealthy men of New York. He must be worth at least \$35,000,000, but he might walk the length of the entire city without being recognized by half a dozen persons. He has never been prominent in any public movement. He has never attended a public function where crowds of people congregate, and when he goes to the theatre or to the opera he hides himself in the rear of a box, says the New York Herald. Young Vanderbilt has many fads. First of all he is a bookworm and is in a way a woman-hater. Formerly he was rated as being, next to John Jacob Astor, the wealthiest young bachelor in the United States, having \$1,000,000 in his own right and control for every past year of his life. Now, as John Jacob Astor is a husband and father, George Vanderbilt stands at the head of his class alone.

The creation of money order offices in the small postoffices is advocated by the Springfield (Mass.) Union on the ground that such offices would greatly facilitate the transaction of business in rural neighborhoods.

A business man of Canada, of an enterprising nature, has established a "floating bank" on Kootenai Lake, Canada. It is in a steamer which journeys from place to place along the lake; thus enabling its owner to supply the inhabitants of the lake villages with banking facilities.

Doctor Oliver Wendell Holmes says that the largest elm he ever saw was in Oxford, England, and measured twenty-five feet in circumference. There was an elm of about the same size in Springfield, Mass., some years ago. The Doctor estimates the life of the American elm at between 200 and 360 years. If any survive to be 300 years, he thinks, it is as wrecks, liable to go to pieces in the first heavy storm.

The method of harvesting wheat on the great bonanza ranches of the Dakotas is said to have amazed the foreign Agricultural Commissioners at the World's Fair. To clear up 640 acres of wheat in one day with 150 hands and forty-five harvesters is a feat which has been paralleled in California, Nebraska and other big Western grain States, but it is doubtful, thinks the San Francisco Chronicle, if any part of Europe can show such rapid work.

Life insurance companies are becoming the holders of enormous masses of capital, notes the New York Tribune. Statistics made public at the last meeting of the National Association of Life Underwriters show that the companies taking no account of assessment corporations and societies, hold assets to the value of \$850,000,000, that they receive from policy holders about \$175,000,000 a year, that their gross income is nearly \$220,000,000 annually, and that they pay about \$100,000,000 annually to the insured in the form of death losses, surrenders and dividends.

Though most people are equipped with thirty-two teeth only, the Shah of Persia appears to be more amply provided for, as we are told that he has just had his fortieth molar extracted. The phenomenon is thus explained. The first time his Eastern Majesty suffered from a decayed tooth and had to have it removed his loyal subjects offered him as a salutation a number of presents amounting in all to ten thousand gold sequins. Having thus discovered a new source of supply for his privy purse, the Shah, whenever he feels the want of those little presents that help to maintain the glow of friendship, causes the fact of his having another bad tooth to be proclaimed by a flourish of trumpets in all parts of his empire, and the presents begin to pour in.

Great Britain has undertaken another great enterprise in Africa, which will probably have an immense effect in the extension of its empire and the civilization of the dark continent. It is to erect a telegraph line from Alexandria, in Egypt, directly through the heart of the continent to Cape Town. The preliminary surveys have already been made. The line will traverse Egypt, the Soudan, the region of the great lakes, and the East Africa Company's territory, German East Africa, the Portuguese possessions, Mashonaland, Khama's country, Bechuanaland, the Transvaal, the Orange Free State and Cape Colony. Contracts have already been signed for constructing the line for more than half the distance, and work is being rapidly pushed, so that the whole is expected to be in working order early next year.

The Atlanta Constitution says: Congressman Brosius, of Pennsylvania, is a man who has a vivid recollection of his experiences during the war. He came near losing his life in the fight with Pickett's forces at Green Plains. He was one of the 300 men who charged across a wheat-field, a third of a mile in width upon a Confederate rifle pit and of the number only 125 came out alive. The Confederates waited until the storming party was within twenty-five yards of the pit and then they opened deadly fire, he tells. Brosius, who was a boy of nineteen, stopped to pick up a wounded comrade, and as he did so a rifle ball pierced his shoulder, shattering the blade and making him a cripple for life. He still carries a memento of that day in the shape of a pocket diary, which he wore in his vest. There is the mark of a bullet in it that would have gone through the young soldier's heart if it had not been stopped by the book.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES. GOLD NUGGETS AND METEORITES AT THE FAIR.

Fac-Similes of Huge Chunks of the Precious Metal Worth Many Thousands of Dollars—A Collection of Meteorites From Various Quarters of the World.

For the benefit of the uninitiated Chief Skiff, of the Mining Department at the World's Fair, has on exhibition a collection of fac-similes of great nuggets. The case containing them is in the southeast corner of the gallery.

When the people come past and see the shining chunks of what seems to be pure gold they stop to investigate, says the Chicago Record. Most of them overlook the card "Fac-Similes" that shows the nature of the display. When they see the small signs, reading "Value \$20,000," they gasp at the thought of such wealth concentrated in one spot. They get out note-books and take the full description of every rich piece in the case. And the descriptions tell very interesting stories of valuable discoveries.

Apparently the department was unable to secure data from which to illustrate the history of the American gold fields in this particular line. Most of the specimens shown are from Victoria, Austria, Australia and from the Siberian mines. One of the largest pieces is called the "Welcome" nugget, and is from Ballarat, Victoria, one of the great centers of gold production in Australia. It is a huge, rugged mass, reminding one of the cypress trees in a Southern swamp. Looking at it and picturing the feelings of the man who found it one can imagine the name given the find expressed the whole situation. The miner had been working for months, probably making little more than the ordinary wages. Then came the wonderful stroke that unveiled gold worth just \$41,883, and weighing 2166 ounces. It is not difficult to suppose that it was a "welcome" nugget. Close by this is another mass, weighing 117 ounces, worth \$31,577 and called the "Precious." It also came from Victoria, in the Berlin district, where fortunes innumerable were turned up along in the '70s. Another Berlin treasure came in the famous John's padlock and was found October 3, 1870. It weighed 1121 ounces and brought \$17,450. It looks like the rolls of putty that glaziers take when they have a big job on hand.

Russia's gold mines are the property of the Czar, and that monarch sees it that the big discoveries are preserved either in the original form or in fac-similes that make valuable historical mementoes. One of the greatest of the Russian discoveries is shown in duplicate. It was found in the valley of Taschke Tarzanka, Ural mountains, Siberia, and the nugget itself is part of the collection in the Royal School of Mines at St. Petersburg. Its weight is put at an even hundred pounds, with a cash value of \$22,000. It is very different in form from the Australian nuggets. They all take the solid outline, while this is rather thin and flat, after the fashion of a huge pancake, with warty protuberances.

These are the best of the exhibits. Others there are with values ranging from \$500 up, and varying in shape from the likeness to a molar tooth to fantastic copies of tooth-stocks. Just back of the array of gold is another collection of considerable value, though it might be hard to realize much from it in a financial emergency. That is because the value is scientific rather than coin current. It is a collection of meteorites and fac-similes of meteorites from the Ward museum. After a man has seen them he is inclined to think

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Mexico, Kentucky, Arkansas, East Tennessee, Colorado are in company with Greenland, East India and Continental Europe. In some cases are cross-section exhibits, showing the peculiar steel-like stratification of the meteorite. Some of the sections have been polished, bringing out the figuring on the metal which in some instances looks very much like Damascus work and in others is almost exactly identical with the markings shown on laminated steel, such as is used for gun barrels.

The contribution from Bab's Mill, Green County, Tenn., is a grotesque imitation of a muskallunge fish, while the one from Wichita County, in the Rio Brazos region of Texas, bears a card saying it was once regarded and cherished by the Indians as an object of worship. The Indians thought that since it came out of the sky and got into their camp it must have been sent to them direct by their deity to serve as a warning and token of divine guidance.

MODEL SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING. The model Sunday School Building erected in connection with the World's Fair is thus described by the Chicago Record. High in the air floats a flag with an inscription strange to Stony Island avenue. Beneath it on the dust-clad sidewalks drift the restless crowd that ceaselessly moves back and forth outside the Fair grounds. From the south come the sharp cries of fakirs and "darkies" who stand before the parasitical sidewalk shows which have fastened themselves to the great Exposition. It is a common thing for some one in the endless column that is ever marching on Stony Island avenue to stop abruptly and look up at the flag. Usually he reads the inscription aloud, something of astonishment and something of reverence in his voice: "Jesus Christ, the Lord." The words stand out prominently. They catch the eye first, and hold the attention longest, so that a second glance is needed to grasp the significance of the strange flag. Another line of words over the first gives it full meaning. This line reads "Sunday School Building."

The parliament of religions has given greater prominence than usual to the building which stands on Stony Island avenue just opposite the north end of the California Building. All last week D. L. Moody's presence filled the building with thousands, drawn from the big hotels which are grouped around it. Every day Sunday-school workers and church people from all over the world pass through the doors, for the building is a working exhibit of a Sunday-school, although it is not inside the

When the proposition was made before the Sunday-school workers of Chicago they greeted it enthusiastically, and voted to raise \$10,000 as Chicago's contribution. Four prizes were offered to architects for the best four plans, the first prize going to H. Curtis Hoffman and Frank Upman, of Chicago.

Sunday-schools throughout the country responded to the request sent out from Chautauqua, Illinois, outside of Chicago, giving \$1800, Massachusetts \$1000, Pennsylvania \$1200, New York \$825, New Jersey \$541, Ohio \$263, Michigan \$267, Rhode Island \$122 and other States more or less amounts. Quebec sent \$100, Ontario \$122, and \$2 came from little Princes Edward Island. The total amount required to build, equip and carry the enterprise to a successful end was \$30,000, and of this \$20,000 was raised, leaving \$10,000 to be gathered. This deficiency is being gradually taken up.

The building combines an ornamental exterior with a remarkably well-arranged interior. Architecturally it is a handsome structure, although there is little about it to suggest a Sunday-school or church, for, in reality, the building is a church which can be thrown open for a Sunday-school in a few minutes. On either side of the main auditorium are polygonal wings divided from it by sliding partitions. Extending under the rear gallery is another section separated from the main room by sliding partitions. Thus, when all the partitions are down, the auditorium is of the conventional oblong shape, with a spacious gallery extending around three sides.

In use, the partitions are raised. They slide up and under the gallery seats, giving the main floor three times the seating capacity it had before the partitions were raised. For Sunday-school work the auditorium is used for the intermediate department, the junior and senior departments are in the polygonal wings, and the primary department is under the rear gallery. All these departments can be subdivided into classrooms by curtains hung on brass rods suspended from the gallery. The gallery itself can be used for classrooms if desired. This flexible arrangement grows the entire Sunday-school into one body or divides it into classes, each class having its own individual room when desired, the changes being made in a few minutes.

Every Sunday afternoon, beginning at 3 o'clock, a Sunday-school is held in the building. The pupils are adults, for the Sunday-school is something of a normal-school order. It teaches teachers. The lesson for the day is taught by some noted worker, and is printed on leaflets, upon which are also printed something which is to make people think.

TRAIN ROBBERS TRAPPED. TWO OF A BAND KILLED AND FOUR IN CUSTODY.

A Dummy Train Sent Out From St. Joseph, Mo., With a Force of Men Inside—A Battle in the Express Car—One Bandit Betrays His Fellows.

The Kansas City, St. Joseph and Council Bluffs Road foiled a night attempt to rob one of its passenger trains, killed two of its robbers and captured four others at Francis, one and a half miles from St. Joseph, Mo. The dead are Fred Kohler and Hugo Engel. The names of those captured are Charles Frederick, N. A. Hurst, Henry Gleitze and William Carter.

The train No. 3 left Kansas City at 9.05 o'clock p. m., and arrived at 12.30 a. m. The officials of the road had been notified that the robbery had been planned, and informed the police. When the train arrived a dummy messenger to open the door, which he did forthwith. Three of the robbers at once entered the car, leaving the two outside to keep guard.

In order thoroughly to deceive the robbers the train was made an exact duplicate of train No. 3, consisting of an engine and tender, an express and baggage car and a usual coach and Pullman. When the dummy train reached a point two miles north of St. Joseph, the engineer's attention was arrested by a lighted lantern moving to and fro between the rails. He obeyed the signal, and six masked men surrounded the engine and presented one revolver at the engineer's head and another at the fireman's held them in subjection while the other five hastened to rob the express car. They ordered the messenger to open the door, which he did forthwith. Three of the robbers at once entered the car, leaving the two outside to keep guard.

The policemen who were guarding the train were distributed in the various cars, the majority of them being concealed in the express car. As soon as the three bandits who had undertaken the work of robbing the car entered the door, the police ordered them to surrender. The robbers were taken completely by surprise, but they sprang at once upon the police. The latter returned the fire, and a general fusillade followed. About twenty-five shots were fired on both sides. When the smoke cleared away, the bodies of Kohler and Engel were found on the floor of the car. Both had been struck through the head. The bullet which struck Kohler produced instant death. Engel was still breathing, but he died soon afterward. Frederick, the third robber engaged in the fight in the car, was uninjured and was placed under arrest. None of the policemen was injured.

While the fight was going on in the car, those of the police not engaged in it were looking after the two robbers who had been left outside to keep watch. The police quickly placed them under arrest. The bandit who had been detailed to guard the engineer and fireman quickly realized the situation when he heard the shooting in the express car, and he made his escape. His name is Henry Gleitze. Several policemen were promptly put on his track and he was caught.

A remarkable feature of the fight in the express car was the escape of all the policemen from injury. The three robbers in the car were each armed with a brace of revolvers and used them freely, but they did no damage.

Kohler's body was pierced by forty-three bullets, yet while he lay on the ground he managed to fire four shots before he died. Engel was struck by fourteen bullets, yet lived a short time. The coaches were riddled with bullets and all of the windows were shot out. Kohler married an estimable young woman about three weeks ago.

The robbers had two sticks of dynamite, to each of which was attached a fuse about three feet long. It was known to the officers on the train that dynamite might be used and it was at first proposed to let the robbers explode some of it before firing on them. Before leaving St. Joseph, however, Chief Beardsley was struck by fourteen bullets, yet lived a short time. The coaches were riddled with bullets and all of the windows were shot out. Kohler married an estimable young woman about three weeks ago.

The following letter from President Cleveland to Governor Northen, of Georgia, in which the President states his position on the financial question at some length, is published: "EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, September 25. Hon. W. J. Northen. My Dear Sir: I hardly know how to reply to your letter of the 15th inst. It seems to me that I am quite plain on record concerning the financial question. My letter accepting the nomination to the Presidency, when read in connection with the message lately sent to the Congress in extraordinary session, appears to me to be very explicit. I want a currency that is stable and safe in the hands of our people. I will not knowingly be implicated in a condition that will justly give me in the least degree of responsibility to any laborer or farmer in the United States for a shrinkage in the purchasing power of the dollar he has received for a full dollar's worth of work, or for a good dollar's worth of the product of his toil. I want only what our currency is to be of such a character that all kinds of dollars will be of equal purchasing power at home, but I want it to be of such a character as will demonstrate abroad our wisdom and good faith, thus placing us upon a firm foundation and credit among the Nations of the earth. I want our financial condition and the laws relating to our currency safe and assured, that those who have money will send and invest it in business and enterprises, instead of hoarding it. You cannot cure fright by calling it foolish and unreasonable, and you cannot prevent the frightened man from hoarding his money. I want good, sound and stable money, and a condition of confidence that will keep it in use. Within the limits of what I have written, I am a friend of silver, but I believe as proper place in our currency can only be fixed by a re-adjustment of our currency legislation, and the inauguration of a consistent and comprehensive financial scheme. I think such a thing can only be entered upon profitably and hopefully after the repeal of the law, which is charged with all our financial wrongs. In the present state of the public mind this law cannot be built upon nor patched in such a way as to relieve the situation. I am therefore opposed to the free and unlimited coinage of silver by the country alone and independently, and I am in favor of the immediate and unconditional repeal of the purchasing clause of the so-called Sherman law. I want good, sound and stable money, and a condition of confidence that will keep it in use. Within the limits of what I have written, I am a friend of silver, but I believe as proper place in our currency can only be fixed by a re-adjustment of our currency legislation, and the inauguration of a consistent and comprehensive financial scheme. I think such a thing can only be entered upon profitably and hopefully after the repeal of the law, which is charged with all our financial wrongs. 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