

MADAGASCAR'S WAR.

FRANCE SENDS AN EXPEDITION TO PUNISH THE NATIVES.

Queen Ranaivalona's Grievance—The Island and its People—Productions of the Country—American Interests There.

FRANCE has sent a strong military expedition to Madagascar to humble the pride of the dusky Queen Ranaivalona. She is furious at the treatment she claims to have received at the hands of the French, and refused to recognize their authority.

On the other hand, the representatives of the French Government on the island claim that the Queen is not on speaking terms with truth and that she is being used as a tool by influential English traders to disrupt the relations with France. The Queen is but thirty-six years of age, without any mental or physical attractions.

She is, however, inordinately vain, and her favors are shown in proportion to the amount of flattery her subjects can beguile her with. She is married to her Prime Minister, the famous Roinelariooane, who has served as Minister since 1864. This man is, so say the French, at the bottom of all this trouble. He is described as a consummate diplomatist—a little old man whom neither time nor hard work has bent. His movements are agile and his eye gleams with penetrating intelligence. He makes all possible efforts to avoid strangers and when he has to meet any foreign diplomats he easily baffles them with his shrewdness, so that it is impossible for them to make anything out of him.

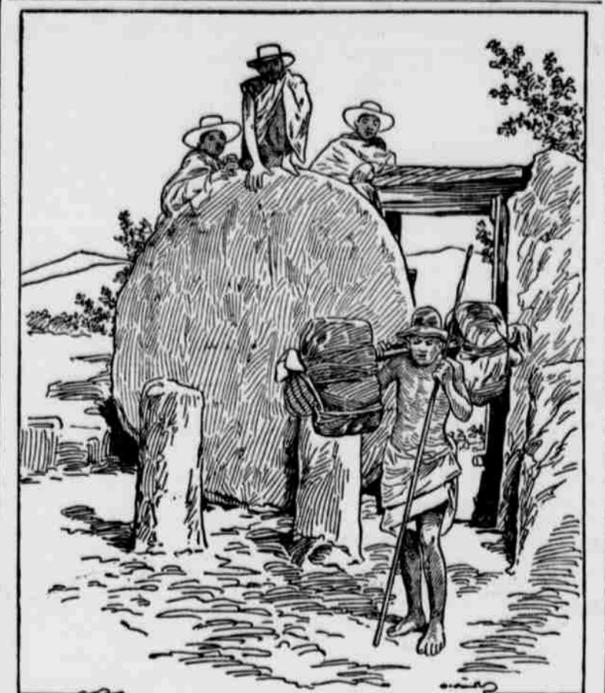
The Hova army is almost beneath contempt, being composed of a lot of underfed, sickly beings, wretchedly armed and worse drilled. The police system in the island is a most unique feature. At 10 o'clock every evening a cannon is fired, after which signal no natives are allowed in the streets. Foreigners on their travels and accompanied by servants are, however, exempt from this order. As soon as the people are driven from the streets the police pair off in coteries of three or more and begin their real work, which is stealing. They do not hesitate to break in any building and carry off what plunder they happen to find. This is taken to the station and divided, the police captain always getting



MADAGASCAR'S QUEEN.

At the northeast of these buildings is the Hova fort, now occupied by the French. The history of Madagascar for the last fifty years has been very largely bound up with the work of the Protestant missionaries of the Congregationalist body in England. It was under the reign of a good King named Radama, at the commencement of this century, that Protestant Christianity was introduced into the island. But in 1828 Radama died and was succeeded by his widow, Ranaivalona. This cruel Queen persecuted the Christians

abundant with rice, the staple food of the natives. The rivers of Madagascar are numerous and many of them are of considerable width. The gloomy and unbroken solitude of some parts of the sublime mountain scenery of Madagascar is enlivened by cataracts of various size, form and elevation. Mineral waters have also been found and the natives tell wonderful stories of the cures effected at the medicinal springs. The hot springs near the small and charming village of Ambohibanabary, "the village of God," have a great reputation.



GATE OF A FORTIFIED VILLAGE IN MADAGASCAR.

for nearly a quarter of a century, and the persecution did not cease until the death of the Queen in 1862. The Christians are now estimated to number one-fourth of the entire population.

The monarchy of Madagascar is elective, and on April 1, 1863, the choice of the Hova Government fell upon a cousin of the cruel Queen, who assumed the name of Ranaivalona II. The new reign began with the inauguration of a liberal constitution, and Christianity was recognized as the national creed. The idols of the people were destroyed.

The trade and commerce of Madagascar are open to the whole world, and in one year the importations of cotton sheetings consisted of 3000

Herds of horned cattle constitute the principal wealth of the nobility, and the grazing grounds in the country are extensive. There is no reason why, under efficient management, Madagascar should not compete with New Zealand in the meat markets of Europe. The sheep of the country appear to be aboriginal, and their flesh is considered to be somewhat inferior to the mutton of Europe.

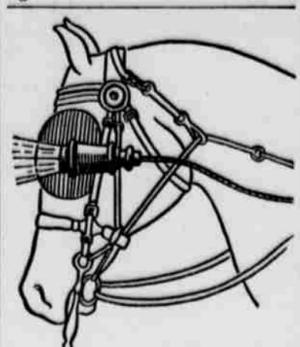
Until the reign of the "good King Radama," about sixty years ago, horses were unknown in the country, but the King introduced them and established breeding paddocks with considerable success. The crocodile is regarded by the Malagasy with superstitious reverence and is called the "King of the Waters."

Great Decrease in the Corn Crop.

The Manufacturers' Record has compiled from the report of the Agricultural Department, just issued, statistics showing the production of corn by States for 1894, which fully confirm the statements that have been made regarding the great destruction of the corn crop in Nebraska and several other Western States. The yield of corn in Nebraska for 1894 was only 13,000,000 bushels against 157,000,000 bushels for 1893; South Dakota, 1,500,000 bushels against 20,500,000; Kansas, 41,000,000 bushels, a falling off of nearly 100,000,000 bushels, while in Iowa the decrease was from 250,000,000 bushels to 81,000,000 bushels. The total crop of these four States was only 130,000,000 bushels against 569,000,000 bushels, showing a decline of 439,000,000 bushels. In the South the crop was unusually large, the aggregate yield having been 483,200,000 bushels.

Electric Light on a Horse's Blinders.

In Berlin the use of glow lamps attached to vehicles and the horses drawing them is now so common as to ex-



cite no remark. An adaptation of the glow lamp for the latter purpose is shown in the cut herewith. The lamp is inclosed in a silvered reflector, and is fed from a small battery of accumulators carried on the vehicle.

Russian Thistle a MI schief-Maker.

The power for mischief of the Russian thistle is instanced by A. J. Lovejoy, of Roscoe, who reports an experiment made by a friend of his in Gettysburg, South Dakota. While driving one day one of the thistles came tumbling along in his path. The happy thought came to him of tacketing the thistle with a request to the person finding it to let him know where it traveled to. He did so and turned it loose again. In a few days word came from the thistle sixty miles away. It had distributed its seeds the entire distance.—Chicago Herald.

This country chews about 230,000,000 pounds of tobacco a year, and the internal revenue therefrom is nearly \$14,000,000.

Accommodated.



Reginald—"Ah, my good man, will you give me a light?"



"Why, cert! come on up."—Life.

A SHOT TOWER ON FIRE.



A 225 feet high shot tower on Beekman street, New York, long a landmark in the metropolis, caught fire in an upper floor one afternoon recently. Thousands of people gazed at the strange sight of the big tower, 225 feet above the ground, spouting forth tongues of flames. The burning tower was seen for miles. It was visible from nearly all the high office buildings and the crowds crossing Brooklyn Bridge had a fine view of the sight. After the fire had spent itself upon the oil and woodwork of the three upper floors it burned itself out slowly and was prevented from coming down the tower by the efforts of the fire department.

COL. LAWLER'S CIRCULAR.

A ROYAL RECEPTION.

The Commander-in-Chief Tells How Louisville will Care for the G. A. R.

Commander-in-Chief Thomas G. Lawler, of the Grand Army of the Republic has issued a circular to Grand Army men which is of special interest to Louisville and her citizens in view of her present relations with that great organization. Not the least interesting portion of the circular is that pertaining to the recent visit of his Council of Administration to that city to look over the ground. He says:

"The reception was of the most cordial character, and without a doubt the loyal welcome of Kentucky to the comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic and their families will be a royal one—the citizens of Louisville, comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic and members of Confederate associations vying with each other to this end. He then explains that all of the details of the encampment were completed, and in a thoroughly satisfactory manner to the committee. The dates arranged were September 11, 12 and 13—the grand parade taking place on the first day and the business sessions of the encampment the two following.

He tells how the committee met with the various citizens' committees and contracts were drawn and presented to the proper local committee for the governing of the hotels and dining-houses, also contracts with railroad companies, to obtain the signatures of the interested parties. He said there is no doubt but what all will be faithfully adhered to as agreed upon.

He called the attention of the department commanders to the resolutions passed at the twenty-seventh national encampment regarding the observance of Washington's birthday and holding of proper services at this time. In many departments in 1894, these services were held with great success, peace and profit, and he feels that he should call attention to these resolutions so that the comrades may take such steps as will lead to a proper observance of the day.

In one part of the circular he speaks of the Southern national cemeteries and the observance of Memorial Day. He calls upon the Northern members of the G. A. R. to aid the Southern members as far as possible in such observances. Department commanders are asked to advocate such assistance and send sums for contributions to the Adjutant General.

In a special circular he calls attention to the Adjutant General's report, which showed that while the G. A. R. had increased in membership (in round numbers) 40,000, the loss was 90,000, leaving the membership in good standing on June 30, 1893, 369,000, also that there were 45,000 members remaining on the suspended list, nearly 25,000 being suspended during the year and nearly 17,000 reported delinquent, also that 463 posts were lost during the year.

The Commander-in-Chief calls upon his aids-de-camp to assist their various departments toward the restoration of suspended and dropped members to the active roll, and calls attention to facts that at the twenty-eighth national encampment an amendment to the rules and regulations was adopted whereby a comrade may be reinstated in the post from which he was dropped by making a written statement to that effect, the payment of one year's dues, and receiving a majority vote of those present at any regular meeting.

APPOINTMENT PARK.

Encampment No. 49 of the Union Veterans Legion, of Washington, D. C., unanimously adopted a resolution extending fellowship to R. E. Lee camp of Confederate Veterans of Richmond, Va., and other confederate organizations, asking their assistance to secure an appropriation from congress for a national park at Appomattox. The resolutions request Representatives Sickles, Wheeler, Grosvenor and Bowers and Senators Gordon, Hawley and Palmer to prepare an appropriation measure.

LINCOLN'S GENTLENESS.

A Southern Democratic paper originates the following tribute: "When Lincoln's speech at Gettysburg is engraved on the tablet to be erected on the battlefield not a word of it will jar upon the Confederate who reads, for its spirit is that of the peace-loving statesman, whose prayer is that the Nation may be preserved with honor. It is a test of Lincoln's greatness that he wrote that speech of gentle humanity, but inflexible devotion to country, when the bitterness of the war was at its height."

A good story is told of General Butterworth of Ohio. When introducing the General at a Delaware political rally during the recent campaign the Chairman capped a long string of compliments by saying: "The gentleman comments himself to your attention because he is the father of Frank Butterworth, the great American football." The applause at once became deafening, and the General discovered that his son was more famous than himself.

In a Cyclone.

In describing a cyclone in the West, not long ago, a writer stated that the wind actually stripped the feathers from a rooster. Of course, many people set the teller of the story down as a Munchausen, and argued that a wind that could do so much would have blown a fowl half way across the Atlantic. But scientific research sustains the story. Tornados which have visited this country and parts of Europe, it has been found afterward, on investigation, have done some very mysterious things. Not only have birds been stripped of their feathers, but people have had their clothing torn from them. These effects could not possibly be ascribed to the wind, for the force necessary to do such work would have been sufficient to carry the objects away bodily. In the tornados which prevailed in France last summer numerous occurrences of this character were observed. Trees were found rent in a manner which could not possibly have resulted from the wind. Oaks were split down the center for a length of twenty to twenty-five feet; poplars and beeches, for lengths of six to twelve feet, were shivered into sticks of uniform thickness. For example, a beech tree sixteen inches in diameter was split into more than five hundred sticks a third of an inch thick, two-thirds of an inch broad, and an inch and a half long. Firs and other resinous trees had almost even surfaces. These phenomena, and others of a kindred nature, can be ascribed only to electricity.

The Church Collection.

The church collection was once taken in a bag at the end of a pole, with a bell attached to arouse the sleepers.

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

San Francisco is the leading whaling port of the world.

There are 90,297 boys and 92,056 girls in the common schools of Berlin.

San Francisco is the distributing point for nearly 400,000,000 pounds sugar.

One grain of gold after leaving the gold-bearer's hands will cover fifty-six square inches.

A French explorer recently found an Assyrian loaf of bread supposed to have been baked 560 B. C.

Mrs. Cramer, of Nechak, Wis., now eighty-two years of age, has read the Bible between 258 times.

A colored Baptist clergyman of Virginia, Dr. Binger, says he can immerse 164 persons in sixty minutes.

The 101st half-yearly meeting of the share holders of the North British Railway was recently held in Edinburgh.

A New York man pleaded as excuse from jury duty that he had been kicked out of his home by his wife. He was excused.

A house in Calhoun county, Ga., has been struck by lightning thirteen times, and the inmates are now getting used to it.

The blanket of violets that almost hid from view the casket of a prominent New York banker who died a few days since cost \$900.

Sleeping apartments should never be unduly heated. Whenever possible children should be accustomed to sleep with a slightly opened window.

The Samoans will erect an obelisk over the grave of Robert Louis Stevenson, which from its great height on the Vaea Mountain will be a conspicuous landmark from the sea.

Some of sculptures found at Nineveh and executed it is said about 2,000 B. C., are of wonderfully delicate workmanship and excite the admiration of the sculptors of to-day.

The axes found at Troy were evidently used for military purposes. Some are shaped like our hatchets and others have a distinct resemblance to a common mattock or pickax.

A cutler displays a combination knife and fork for the use of persons only having one arm. It is a small knife, the blade shorter, but wider than usual. The blade is turned up at the end and here are three prongs.

Owing to their small size the Yokohama (Japan) policemen sometimes have a pretty hard time of it arresting drunken sailors—big, brawny Englishmen, Danes or Swedes—in the Yashinawa, or Tenderloin, precinct. But they are plucky little fellows and stick to their prisoners manfully.

Partridges and quail will generally when accidentally caught by a high wind, close their wings and drop to the ground in a slanting direction, only using their wings to check the flight when near the earth. They frequently fail to check themselves in time, or the force of the wind is greater than they calculated, and they are dashed with tremendous force to the earth and are wounded or killed.

Cloth From Wood Fibre.

What are known as the Mesterlich processes for making chemical wood fibre are claimed to be applicable to the production of cloth, based upon the fact that, on the resinous substances pertaining to wood being extracted therefrom, all that causes decay is thus gotten rid of, the remaining fibre being like a piece of cotton in whiteness and fluffiness. Apparatus is now being perfected for weaving and spinning such fibre in the same manner substantially, as cotton or wool. For some time past a factory has been in operation at Port Huron, making underclothing from wood fibre, and which are said to equal in all respects those made of wool. In addition to these, there have for a long time been sent to market hats, blankets, pails, washtubs, trunks, basins, pitchforks, and other articles, almost innumerable. An interesting statement is that the most important methods in vogue for the production of wood pulp or wood fibre have originated in Germany, and next to these, American ingenuity has accomplished the most wonderful results.—Paper World.

A Sure Thing.

A wild fear seized upon her. "He has gone forever!" she shrieked. She had secretly entertained the expectation that the man she had spurned would come back until she loaded over the hat rack and found he had taken away a much better umbrella than he brought. "Forever," she moaned.—Detroit Tribune.

his share of the spoils whether accompanying any expedition or not. This is a statement which has been verified more than once by recent visitors to Madagascar.

The police claim that this is the only way by which they can exist, as their pay, whenever they get any, is totally insufficient to keep them alive. A short time ago an armed servant of the French Minister was mobbed by a crowd in Tannarive in broad daylight, and the authorities have since refused to punish the culprits or to give any other satisfaction.

The historical right of France to a protectorate over Madagascar is claimed by two centuries and a half of successive treaties. In 1816, when the French ceded the Island of Mauritius to England, they were careful to retain the Island of Reunion, which is opposite Madagascar, in order to assert the right of the Government of France to interfere in the affairs of that great island, which stands very much in the same relation to Africa as Madagascar does to Europe and Japan does to Asia.

The city of Tamatave, which is now occupied by the French, is built on a long, narrow peninsula of sand, having an eastern direction, with very deep bays on either side, that on the north forming the harbor in which ships of the largest size can find a secure anchorage. On the peninsula are the houses of the British, French, American, German and Italian residents, with their consulates. The street in which they reside is known as Royal street. The rest of the city is largely made up of little houses and stalls covered with thatch, huddled together in utter disregard of all sanitary precautions and in a way to give ever facility for the whole place being consumed by fire. Close to the bazaar stands the chapel of the London Missionary Society and the church of the Bishop of the Church of England.

bales of a value of \$300,000. These cotton sheetings are for the most part of American manufacture.

It is a great mistake to suppose that the Malagasy are a people basking in a burning heat, with only a few shreds of muslin upon them for the sake of decency. When the cold east wind of the dry season is blowing many of them find even stout American sheetings too thin for comfort. Printed calicoes sell in all parts of Madagascar, but it is not easy to hit the native taste in patterns. The Malagasy is reluctant to be guided by the fashions of Europe.

The whole foreign trade of Madagascar, both import and export, does not fall far short of \$7,000,000 annually, and the wants of the country are daily increasing. Among the articles of export are crocodile skins, india-rubber, wax and coffee.

Mr. Waller, the late American Consul of Tamatave, obtained a monopoly of the india-rubber trade, and consequently the United States is much interested in the trade carried on between New York and the port of Madagascar. Doubtless the circumstance that the American cruiser Castine has been ordered to proceed to the east coast of Africa has something to do with the interest which is felt in the trade carried on between Madagascar and this country.

The cultivation of the silkworm is an occupation particularly suitable to the women and children of Madagascar. And very beautiful silk is manufactured on the island. This branch of trade is capable of very great development, as silk cocoons can be produced to meet almost any demand.

The productions of the country are such as may well excite the cupidity of a foreign conqueror. Silver and copper exist in certain portions of the island, and specimens of gold sand have been brought from the central provinces. The interior districts abound with iron, and iron ore is so abundant in the mountain of Ambohimangvo that it is called by the natives the "iron mountain."

The valleys of the island are exceedingly fertile. They are clothed with a rich and luxuriant verdure and