The most beautiful bank notes issued those of France and Germany. They are very difficult of imitation.

Between London and Paris the long distance telephone lines have almost supplanted the telegraph, so much more expeditious are they.

If financial disasters be a test of ac tual condition, the boasted prosperity of Australia seems, to the New York Commercial Advertiser, to be about to come to an end in the crash of banks

A New York Judge has decided that the practice of boycotting is not il-legal, but he seems to the San Francisco Chronicle to have based his deci sion upon the fact that both employed employed had mutually engaged and in the business of harassing each other.

According to the New York Independent one of the greatest literary undertakings of late years in America is the reprint in a somewhat revised shape of Walch's edition of Luther's works. This is being done by the book concern of the Lutheran Synod of Missouri and other States. Twelve volumes in large quoto have already

A Kentuckian who entered the august presence of the United States Supreme Court recently says there were but two lawyers within the bar, one of them making a prosy speech and the other working mightily like a man who was expecting to answer his opponent. "There was an air of solemn dullness about the grave jurists which seemingly was an appropriate atmos-phere for the enshrouding of brooding Buddhas."

A reform movement seems to be

sweeping over our Southern neighbor -Mexico, notes the Independent. States have passed laws abolishing bull fighting, and it is expected that the National Congress will complete the work by a general prohibitory bill. This is a very gratifying indication of the working of good influences in our sister Republic. Mexico without bull fights and without revolutions is Mexico under the control of the new civ ilization.

The Railway Suspension Bridge at Niagara, the first of its kind in this country, and for many years regarded as a wonder second only to the great cataract, has outlived its capacity, de clares the New York Mail and Express. and probably will soon be replaced by another and greater structure. This old bridge was the first of the marvelous triumphs of our engineers, who have now progressed far beyond it, and who have come to regard it as a very

ordinary affair.

Captain Molard, a professor at St-Cyr, Franc's West Point, who ought to be good authority, has made a care-ful calculation of the force of soldiers now under call in Europe. He puts France at the head, with 2,500,000; next, Russia with 2,451,000; close upon her, Germany with 2,417,000; then, after a long interval, Italy, with 1,514, 000; while fifth among the armies comes that of Austria-Hungary, with 1,050,000. A great drop brings us to Turkey, with 700,000; to England, with 342,000; and to Spain, with 300, 000. The lesser powers put together can muster 1,289,000, so that the aggregate would be 12,563,000. It is a tremendous aggregate for Europe to maintain, comments the New York Sun. However, only a small part of these forces are constantly with the colors, forming what we should call the regular or standing army, They include the reserves of various grades, and perhaps only a fourth or a fifth of the whole body are always under arms. These figures, nevertheless, as we un-derstand the matter, shows us the number on the rolls or in the calculations for possible use in time of war. and for which provision is made of some sort in the military budgets. But Captain Molard expects these num be far outdone seven years hence. From various calculations and nises he concludes that in the year 1900 Germany will have 5,000,000 so! diers: France, 4,350,000; Russia, 4,-000,000; Italy, 2,236,000; Austria-Hungary, 1,900,000; Turkey, 1,150,-000; Spain, 800,000; England, 602, 000, and the smaller powers 2,832,000. Here would be a prodigious aggregate of 22,420,000. This calculation for the year 1900 supposes, therefore, an adearly 10,000,000 to dition of n crushing military establishments of today. It is not beyond the domain of a reasonable possibility that before the Twentieth Century arrives the huge military fabric of Europe will tumble of its own weight, and that, under a general plan of disarmament, the armies of that period, instead of being nearly double those of 1893, may Lot be more than half as great,

It may have been in one sense the fault of this parent that his only son had grown to manhood with a disre-gard for dollars, which led his gen-erous, happy-go-lucky nature into wild and reckless extrawagnee. Teroy Leonard had been a very lit-tle boy when his mother and older isther's care. So it was the most natural thing in the world that, after the first paralysis of grief had worn away with time, Mr. Amos Leonard centered all his love, and hope and pride in this lonely fel-low. Whatever happiness was left in the world to his father was embodied in Le Roy. What worder is if that the boy grew to a man with the idea that all obstacles would be insome way removed from the path of the courted Le Roy Leonard. He had gone through college with every confirmation of this idea and it bostacles would be insome way removed from the path of the courted Le Roy Leonard. It cost the Hon. Amos Leonard more than is son dreamed to hold out in this matter. He would deny himself anything in reason, or out of it, to save this stift natured son of his one extra care or through the father. This idea of discipline or manage-mything in reason, or out of it, to save this father. The ad so discipline had occurred to Mr. Leonard rather late perhaps, but he was determined to uhd out in this matter. He would deny himself anything in reason, or out of it, to save this bright natured son of his one extra care or through its hardships to him as well as to his father. There are many who will criticise his judgment in this case-rightfully, too, perhaps—but he was doing what he thought best. His motive was good, indeed; it was only that he was a man-a father, not a mother. Le Roy stood whisting for more than half an hour. Then he took his hat and started toward the door. "Good-bye, sir." "Good-bye, sir."

plied, looking up as Le Roy left the room. He looked at the door for some room. He looked at the door for some minutes after his son had passed out. "The boy is all right," he said, half aloud. "It was only a little firmness that he needed. I have never been quite firm enough." So he turned and went on writing

went on writing. Le Roy walked down the avenue to Twenty-third street and stood for a few moments in the porch of the Fifth Avenue Hotel. His debts were larger than usual, and two of them were what is called in a certain circle "debts of honor." They must be paid to-morrow at the latest, and his entire income for several months and two of constrained by a childing the sevent profession was not yet paying divi-dends. He had been three times to his meant to refuse all aid. Suddenly, standing there in the bright wintersunshine, Le Roy Leonard

The father stood there watching his son, as he had done a thousand times before. Le Roy had grown into the habit of expecting him there, and now just as he had always done, he snatched off his hat and waved it boy-ible more his head. smatched on nis hat and waved it boy-ishly over his head. The Hon. Amos Leonard nodded his white head and then laughed aloud at the mockery of it. "He does not know yet," he mused. "I shall have more time to think."

He was waiting in the library when

think." He was waiting in the library when Le Roy came down stairs dressed for dinner. He sat down by his father and read the evening papers until the meal was announced. Then he arose, and just as he had done ever since he grew to his father's height, offered his strong young arm and led his father to his place at the head of the table. The evening dinner had always been a happy one to those two old friends when they dined alone together. So it was to-night. There were no guests. Le Roy's bright talk cheered the lonely home and his father joined in it with more than usual vivacity. It was no time to think while "the boy" was present.

present. After dinner came a game of chess, and that finished, Le Roy got out his guitar and accompauted his rich, sweet baritone in the ballads his father loved to beer

baritone in the ballads his father loved to hear. Usually after this, Le Roy went out some where. Occasionally the Hon. Amos Leonard went with him, but to-night neither seemed inclined to leave the luxury of home. Not until the great hall clock chimed the hour of midnight did Le Roy rise and bid good-night to his father in the old, boyish and unusual, perhaps, but in-finitely sweet to the old mwn, who had no one else to bid him good-night in any way. y way. After that it was too late to think.

"To-morrow," said Amos Leonard to himself, "he will know and he will not come.

"To-morrow" pased slowly and yet the father had not found time nor mind to think. That dull old grief had come upon him again just as it had when he was first left with only Le Roy in the world. Sometimes he seemed to hear the boy's childish prattle, as he did in the days past, when it was meaningless to him, coming through his mist of sorrow.

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The Hoys' Festival in Japan. The Boys' Festival in Japan, is the celebration on the fifth day of the month of the boys' festival. It is called Nobori-no-sekka, festival of freeds. Before the door of every abode which has been blessed by the birth of boys during the past seven years, rises a tal bamboo pole, from the top of which are flung to the breeze gigantio carp-koe-made of paper or woven stuffs in brilliant colors, one for every son. This particular fish is chosen for a symbol beccuse it swims stoutly against stream, and even up rapids, leaping cascades to the higher waters. This implies that the boys in like man-ner must be sturdy and indomitable, sturning courageously the stormy guirrents of life's stream. Flags also are traised before the houses, bearing pictures of the Chinese mythical hero Shoki, as an example of strength and bravery. Weapons, armor and pic-tures of heroes and horses are chosen for the decoration of the tokonoma, the slightly raised platform which is the slightl

The flower held in highest favor for this festival is the ris; but a kind of early chrysanthemum, and a particular variety of bamboo, called moso-chiku, are also used. Bundles of reeds and mugwort are fastened to the projecting roofs of the houses on this day.— Demorest.

as mugwort are fastened to the projecting profs of the houses on this day.— Demorest. A Generous Cat. A member of the Zoological Society says: "I once had a cat which always as the provide the second of the second his plate and some fish. He used his praw, of course, but he was very par-ticular and behaved with extraordi-tany decorum. When he had finished his his sometimes gave him a piece of mine. One day he was not to be found when the dinner bell rang, so we began without him. Just as the plates were put round puss came rushing upstairs and sprang into his chair, with two mice in his month. Before he could be stopped had the no ne on mine. He had di-vided his dinner with me, as I had often divided mine with him."—Lon-don Answers.

Courteous Bandits of China.

Courteous Bandits of China. The robbers of China are banded to-gether, and form a terrible compact. If a bank in the city wishes to send a large amount of money to Pekin, the banker sends a gift to the chief of the banker sends a gift to the chief of the banker sends a gift to the chief of the bank in the time the silver will be sent, and requesting that it be not disturbed. When such a request is made, ac-companied by a handsome present, it is usually honored. These banditi see no the only robbers. The Government is engaged in the same business. Taxes are very high, and every time one comes in contact with the rulers it costs something,—Brooklyn Citizen,

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BOYHOOD OF COLUMBUS

EVENTS THAT OCCURRED DUR-ING HIS YOUTH.

Famous Monuments that Were Begun in His Youth—The Roses War and the Turks —Slege of Constantinople—Building of the Bastile.

Childhood of Old Chris, To realize how great have been the changes since the boyhood of the dis-coverer of the new world is a matter of no little difficulty to people of the pres-ent time. Columbus was born in 1445, four and a half centuries ago, but sin re that time the world has moved so fast and gone so far that, in point of prog-ress, the time of Pericles is not further removed from our own. The boyhood and gone so far that, in point of prog-ress, the time of Pericles is not further removed from our own. The boyhood of the great navigator is, therefore, of interest to us, since the scenes he daily beheld, the topics he heard constantly discussed, the events of his period, the customs of his contemporaries, are as diverse as possible from those with which we are familiar, and, by compar-ison, the world of his youth is a world with which the general realer is as little acquainted as he is with the pres-ent state of learning in Timbuctoo. Yet thrilling history was being made while Columbus was a child at his mother's knee, and as the boy greew older, fond of books and im-mersed in study as he was, he could not tail to hear something of the streets of the bustling city of Genoa. In those days the fleets of Genoa cov-ered the Mediterrancen, and daily art-vals brough intelligence from all quar-ters of the known world. News spread with wonderful rapidity, considering the fast that newspapers, tolgraphs, post-offices. were all lacking; news of the batte of Agincourt, fought thrity years before Columbus was born, was told in



AN ANTWERP HOUSE -TIME OF COLUMBUS

AN ANTWERP HOUSE-TIME OF COLUMBUS ANTWERP HOUSE-TIME OF COLUMBUS Tome, over a thousent, miles away, be-fore the end of a week; the results of Gressy, a hundred years earlier, were known all over Europe within a fort-night. Sometimes, of course, oragger-ated, the accuracy of this hastily trans-mitted intelligence was wonderful. A gentioman in England, whose brother was killed and whose two some were wounded when Joan raised the siege of orleans in 1429, learned the fact in six days, and started to the relief of his boys on the seventh. When intelligence pread like this, a great center of news, and Columbus, when a lad of 6, may have heard the news of the final expui-tion of the English from France in 1453 in Fighten the seventh, the intelligence pread like this, a great center of news, and Columbus, when a lad of 6, may have heard the news of the final expui-tion of the English from France in 1453 in England between the rival houses of York and Lancaster, in which roses whe prize. No doubt, among his com-tarks and of the suitan Bajazet, and imprisoned the nume of Turk was a form the dottime was probably no reention to the rule that boys delight in stories of daventure. When totimit have a boy the name of Turk was a form when their children into obderi-tor the birth of Columbus, had defeart-ding those the conquere's samy. Tales in stories of daventure. When totimits and the story of the great-story word throughout Europe. Moth-rest Turk, who, at the time of turk was a form word throughout Europe. Moth-rest the the their children into obdedi-ne with the threat that the 'triat bage story word throughout Europe. Woth-rest the the threat that the 'triat bage story word throughout Europe. Moth-rest the the their children into bedi-there with the threat that the 'triat bage story word throughout Europe. Moth-rest the the threat that the 'triat bage story word throughout Europe. Moth-rest the the threat that the 'triat bage story word throughout Europ

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England and Scotland, were gathering in both cities, ready to embark with the first favorable wind; but before the wind came the news arrived that the Turkish cannon, novel and much-dreaded first favorable wind; but before the wind came the news arrived that the Turkish cannon, novel and much-dreaded weapons, had made a breach in the walls; that Constantine, sword in hand, had fallen among his troops, and that the creecent had replaced the cross on the giant dome of St. Sophia. When



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A SPANISH GALLSY.

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Lancastrans fought the first battle of the Roses war. When the explorer was 12 he, no south the explorer was 12 he, no doubt, saw many of the Cologne Jews who at hat time were expelled from the the south of the second from the little of the second from the dr.1 which is now one of the wonders of the Christian world. Its first stones were laid 200 years bofore he was been, but the work went on slowly, and in his youth the walls were scarcely ten feet high, while a small roofed inclosure in one corner served to shield worshipers from the weather. Three years after his dealt he work ceased slicgether, and was not resumed until 1842, nor was it until 1840 that the grand pile was fin-ished, over 600 years from the com-mencement of the enterprise, which thus covered in its construction nearly half Middle Ages and the whole of modern times.

Imperial Telephone Etiquette. Emperor William II. has his own

mperial way of using the telephone Despite mistakes caused by the Em

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