

BRIDGE A RUSSIAN RAGE.

similar conditions exist in all the big American cities which might by similar

and forests. Making their entrance in this fashion, to the youngsters from the tenements who never attend they veritable beings of another where all is joy and happiness. When the stage is reached the Piper, who is the stage is reached the Piper, who is dressed in the picturesque mediaeval costume of the famed magleian, and the fairy children clad in white and flower-crowned, sing "Three Blind Mice," "Polly Put the Kettle On." "Little Bo-Peep," and other songs fa-miliar to the children of the well-to-do, but which are heard for the first time by most of the little folk from the by most of the little folk from the slums. However, with that quickness of childhood to pick up simple airs and words they join eagerly in the choruses. The Piper then reads some fairy tales from the Golden Book which he has brought with him from Fairyland. The body of the hall meanwhile is in semidarkness, all the light being concen-trated on the stage, which helps main-tain the illusion of the super-natural character of the entertainers. Stories are delivered with excellent, The

not overstrained elecutionary effect,

and the invenile auditors listen to them with that rapturous attention which

hildren always bestow on such tales

when they hear them for the first

SOME NURSERY RHYMES

Fairyland, as it is called, is at on end, and the children return to the grim realities of life in slumland. But they take with them memories of things that brighten it, and with interest awakened in sources of happiness that

American commercial invasion of

yasion, art invasion and all the other manifestations of transpontine activity over here, comes an American religious invasion on a bigger scale and with a more during object in view than anything of the sort ever attempted before-nothing less than the convers sion of the rich and fashionable London smart set from the error of its friv.

Park Lane are as accessible to the voices of religion as Whitechapel and Bow. I am longing to see the picture of the ti-tled lady in silks and sables joining in the 'Glory' song side by side with a lowly sister in the garments of poverty. Give us a little time among the aris-toracy and you shall see sights that should remind you of Wales." Thus said Charles Alexander, the

preaching coadjutor from the Unit-States, Dr. Reuben Archer Torrey,

coming to London to start this ex-

Don Strait Jacket of Fashion's

Duchess of Marlborough Introduces Domestic Reforms in Her May-

Special Correspondence.

ertainly has not parted with the most

and as a result the American brides made the acquaintance of several varie-ties of the British feminine stare, fre-quently accompanied by the audible comment, "There goes Dalsy Leiter and her sister!" At one of the counters an aristocratic looking woman remark-ed to a salesman, with what was meant be withering sarcasm, and in a voice for withering sarcasm, and in a voice which all around could hear, "I sup-pose the poor things could not afford a respectable honeymoon." However the two brides did not seem a bit flus-tered by the attention they attracted.

They were bent on enjoying them-selves in their own way. They bought a jot of toys and millinery, paid cash for their purchases and departed as they came without even availing themelves of a hansom

tater in the afternoon they were noted in Holborn at the shop of a dog fancler where the countess paid M0 for a toy terrier and carried it off in her muf. When the dog man learn-ed the identity of his customer he iniumated his intention of hiring some-bedy to kick him because he had not

Bridge has become the rage among the Russians, who are the greatest gamblers in the world. But they have gamblers in the world. But they have the solace of knowing that indulgence in card playing, however bad it may be for their own pockets, materially as-sists a most deserving charity. The manufacture of cards is a government monopoly in Russia, and the profits from their sale are assigned to the Red Cross society. Last year, accord-ing to figures just published, the sale of rds brought 2,000,000 roubles (\$1, 000 .0) to the national exchequer, of 00( 0) to the national exchequer, of which \$850,000 represents the share of the Red Cross society, the cost of their the first society, the cost of their manufacture being only \$250,000. The czar is himself a capital player, and the cards used by the imperial family are made of the finest linen rags, and bear a water mark of the imperial eagle and crown. The royal court used 1,200 marks list mean which court \$4500. The and crown. The royal court used 1,200 preks last year, which cost \$4,500. In-oldentally this shows that the czar and his courtlers are not exactly plunged in glocm by the reverses which the Rus-slan arms have suffered in the far east. There is no gambling at the mikado's court. ourt. There are no signs of abatement in the popularity of bridge here; on the contrary it is steadily growing in fa-vor. Next month the New Almack's, the club of the upper tendom of both seves which is devoted exclusively to the game, will open its enlarged prem-ises, and take in something like 100 ad-ditional aristocratic members from the anxious waiting list. During his recent visit, the king of Portugal had a great run of luck at bridge, which he played at Windsor, and the big country houses of the nobility whom he visited. At Chatsworth, the principal seat of the Duke of Devonshire, his skill and for-tune produced such handsome results that his winnings caused him no little embarrassment, which he relieved by presenting the duchess with a set of gold jewelled bridge markers. It was while he was at Chatsworth that he received a telegram from Lisbon. inform-ing him that he had won \$12,500 in the national lottery. It has been the cus-tom of the king for many years to subscribe for several tickets, always selecting the same numbers. It was one of these, 2,305, which drew the prize. Truly fortune must be in a merry mood with this popular monarc

LADY MARY.

body to kick him because he had not put on another \$50 to the price. "If she had only come in a carriage," he said, "I'd a done it; dropping in on me like she did I call regular sailing under faise colors." However, he gave ody to kick him cause he had no her ladyship credit for being a good judge of dogs.

VANDERBILT SPIRIT.

The Duchess of Marlborough, who nherits much of the Vanderbilt spirit which prompts her to run things to suit herself, has set at defiance British precedent, and has undertaken to inroduce sundry reforms in the domestroduce sundry reforms in the domes-tic management of her Mayfair establishment. The new system is not working altogether smoth-ly and in consequence. there have been several erruptions below stairs. As many as 15 servants of various grades have been dismissed within three months, each receiving a month's wages in lien of the usual nomonth's wages in lieu of the usual no-tice. It is the custom in large English houses to leave the management of the household staff in the hands of the chief butler. It saves trouble, but it does not make for economy and officience. make for economy and efficiency. The duchess has divided her menials into sections, each having a head who is responsible to her personally. The ser-vants finding that they could not take blass a same having a backet the vants finding that they could not take things so easy as before, resented the change, and several shake-ups foi-lowed, and the end of them is not yet. Under the new regime accounts for household expenses are now checked by the duchess herself, instead of be-ing "O. K.'d." as is customary in simi-lar establishments, by the butler or establishments, by the butler or thef. As these functionaries generally receive liberal commissions from tradesmen their interest naturally lies tradesmen their interest naturally lies in making il bills as large as the pockets of their employes will stand. It is this sort of thing that the duchess intends to put a stop to. A few days ago what she considered an excessive consumption of coal attracted her at-tention, and she went into a mathema-tical calculation, based on the number of fires kept going, to ascertain how long the 20 tons in the cellars should last. Friends of the duchess are watch-ing her experiment with sympathetic ing her experiment with sympathetic interest, but sadly confessing that they lack the courage to undertake such re-forms in their own homes. The duke takes no hand in the matter. Affairs at

methods be rendered less dreary to the chidish victims of poverty, may render a description of this novel association of interest to American readers. FAIRY TALE SOCIETY.

It is called the "Fairy Tale Society," and its entertainments are given grat-uitously to assemblies of poor children in various parts of the city. They require no elaborate preparations or scenic appliances, and necessitate small expenditure of money. Their influence expenditure of money. Their influence does not cease with them. They awaken the imagination of the little folk, and the books of fairy tales which are distributed among them-such lit-erature is cheap in these days-afford the means of continuing their explora tions in the delightful realms of faray, while the remembrance of what they have seen helps them to give a realisti visual embodiment to the stories they read.

As at present arranged the enter As at present arranged the enter-tainments take this form. An individ-ual in plain costume tells briefly to the children who have been gathered from the slums the story of the Pled Piper of the slums the story of the Pied Piper of Hamelin, adding that the Piper occa-sionally revisits the earth, accompanied by some of the children from Fairy-land. He says that the Piper has by some of the children from Fairy-land. He says that the Piper has promised to pay them a call that night, bringing with him some of his fairies, and to tell them some of his fairy tales and to tell them some of his songs. At this moment the sound of a pipe is heard outside the halt. "There he is!" exclaims the every-day sort of man

time.



CURZON EVRE AS THE "PIED PIPER."

He is the founder of the unique society which is bringing the sunshine of romance into the dreary lives of the poor little folk of the tenements.

may enliven many dreary hour them and in later years help the realize the beauty that hides beneath the show of things. The entertainment is a charmingly simple one, but just such as the heart of the child most quickly responds to.

CURZON EYRE.

The founder of the Fairy Tale so clety is Curzon Eyre, of Hampstead, and the youngest gray-haired man 1 and the youngest gray-naired man t have ever met. Making children happy, he says, is a far more effective means of retaining perpetual youth than a bath in that mythical fountain which Ponce de Leon sought in vain. He re-joices that he was 12 years old until he discovered that giants and giant-tillers were enably creations of fancy. killers were equally creations of fancy He reared his own children on fairy He reared his own children on fairy tales. They have all outgrown bellef in them now, but it is the knowledge of the delight they took in them, and the healthful influence they exercised in stimulating their imaginations which has led him to seek a means which has led him to seek a means of bringing fairyland into slumland. He plays the role of the Pied Piper and as a charmer of children his powers al-most equal those of the fabled Hame-im musician. He gets no pay for his services, of course; it is sheer love of the work that inspires his enthusiasm for it. His three daugthers—pretty, rosy-checked, buxom. English girls, ranging in age from 14 to 18, take the parts of the leading fair-les. They are rather substantial fair-les, as they acknowledge, laughingly. But the zest and enjoyment with which But the zest and enjoyment with y hey enter into the work, their so faces fairly radiating happiness good will, enable them to assume characters far more effectually attenuated hirelings could do. The fairy bay is played by one of Mr. Eyre's sons, not yet too old to have full com-

mand of a good treble volce.

FAIRYLAND FAITH. It was an article entitled "Fairyland and the Slum Child-a Hint to Philan thropists," by Arthur Rickett, former

ly on the staff of "Punch," which firs

ly on the staff of "Punch," which first usggested to him a means of giving practical effect to the desire he had long cherished. It was a case of good seed falling on good ground and bring-ing forth fruit a hundredfold. That article led to a meeting between Mr. Rickett and Mr. Eyre, and as a result, very shortly thereafter, the "Fairy Tale Society" was started. Wherefore Mr. Eyre modestly declares that whataver credit attaches to it belongs primarily to Mr. Rickett.

MORE THAN AMUSEMENT.

Mr. Eyre regards the work of the so-ciety as something far more important than merely providing an usement for the idle hours of poverty-spleken child-

hood. The development of juvenile im aginations he regards as a most in

agnations he regards ds a most im-portant feature of educational work, which in these days when utilitarianism holds the field, and on every side is heard the cry that the young should be taught only so-called "practical knowl-edge," is in danger of being sadly neg-lected.

"Happiness," he said to me, "comes from within. That was proclaimed ages ago, but it is a truth which every man has to learn afresh from experience.

and nothing contributes so much to happiness from that source as a culti-vated imagination. The seeds of it should be sown in the impressionable age of childhood; otherwise the mind is apt to become so absorbed in the strug.

apt to become so howored in the strug-gle for purely materialistic things that there is no room-no desire-for such development. And fairy tales, with the irreststible appeals they make to child-ish fancy afford the best stimulants for

its early growth. There is many a man owes his attainment to that blessed state which finds contentment without

riches to the bent given to his mind by fairy tales. I have spent four years in America and I am convinced that the

mour, who won over the hurdles at Haydock park the other day.

The stakes in the race were \$2,000 singing American evangelist, who, with and Mrs. Langtry also added consider-ably to her banking account in the way of bets. There always has been a strong element of superstition in the actress' character. She has always backed in a most spirited manner any new effort or enterprise in which she traordinary campaign. For two years they have been touring the English

sport with a pertinacity that has com-manded the admiration of all racing men. Under the most adverse circum-

horses in training. In racing circles,

has been personally interested, and the this instance she backed her new rac-ing name pretty heavily. Though her track experience in the past has been so discouraging she has stuck to the

of horses in training. In racing circles it is said that King Edward still takes an active interest in the Jersey Lily's track enterprises, and that he recently has suggested important amendments her rading methods.

men. Under the most adverse circum-stances she would never look disheart-ened and her trainer and jockey always would be cheered with the remark, "Better luck next time." However, Mrs. de Bathe has been greatly encouraged by her early suc-cess this year, and it is understood that she is arranging to increase her number of horses in training. In racing circles he cannot, he states, "be officially con-

provinces, filling the biggest halls they could find, with the result that at their theetings 56,000 people have publicly confessed a change of heart. ON A HUGE SCALE. While their mission recalls that of Moody and Sankey, nearly a generation ago, which resulted in such a tremen-dous religious upheaval, its plan and scope differ whely from that of their Andrican predecessors. The Right Hororable and Right Reverend Lord Bishop of London, admitting that the West End has quite as much need of religious awakening as the slums of the Recet Find hus in a vibilished lation the Eeast End, has in a published letter wished the evangelists godspeed in their mission But, such are the limitations which the church imposes on the spir-itual activities of her highest servants.

(Continued on page twenty-one.)

## NEW FRENCH PREMIER.



M. Rouvier is the new French Premier who succeeded M. Combas. His selection of a cabinet has just been announced. Rouvier is more or less of an unknown quantity in world-wide politics, and it remains to be sean whether he will be successful,

LATEST OF KUROPATKIN. 

The above picture is made from a photograph of Gen. Kuropatkin taken at his winter quarters near Mukden. It shows that the hardships of the winter camp are not telling to any great extent on the Russian commander.