

under that instrument, we feel that we are right, and this is—according to the authority quoted—better than being President—almost as good in fact as being a resident of New York.

### IS THE EUROPEAN WAR COMING?

Rumors of preparations for war in Europe are flying thick and fast at present, although nobody seems to know exactly what there is to make war about. The impending visit of the Russian squadron to Toulon is looked upon as dangerous to the peace of Europe, as in the enthusiasm of the French population something may be done, it is feared, to provoke other powers to uncontrollable wrath. At the same time the assurance is given that neither Russia nor Germany nor France wishes to precipitate a catastrophe, and that the czar, looking upon the visit as dangerous, has warned President Carnot and his advisers against being too demonstrative—all of which reads like so many words without meaning; for if there be danger in the intended appearance of Russian ships in French waters and if the government is concerned wish to avoid the danger, why are the ships sent to France at all? The importance of a courteous return visit of the visit of the French to Cronstadt cannot be so important as the preservation of the peace of a whole continent. The sending out of the Russian fleet at this time has rather the appearance of an experiment on the part of the czar's government to ascertain the possibility of creating a *causus belli* without having to bear the whole responsibility.

Italy is reported as particularly restless. A feeling has been growing lately in that country that the situation is such that nothing but a war can afford relief. The troops are said to be mobilized and massing on the French frontier as if an attack were expected from that country.

It may be that the situation is as grave as represented, but until some definite cause of a serious quarrel can be pointed out, it is safe to presume that the sensational rumors are manufactured in the capitals for the purpose of inducing the parliaments to appropriate a few more millions of the poor people's hard-earned money for the support of the increased army. War rumors have a certain periodicity in Europe and always appear when the military party thinks it needs more money. But the representatives of the toiling classes ought to be able to see through the trick by this time.

### MINING MACHINERY EXPOSITION.

The disposition on the part of the nations to have great expositions cannot properly be called a mania, although exhibiting some of the features of that condition. These are engendered as a rule in a spirit of friendly rivalry but chiefly for the purpose of bringing the world's people together in legitimate competition, thus stimulating the arts, sciences, mechanism and literature of each, while presumably realizing something in a financial way for the country carrying the show.

We are now informed through correspondence to a coast paper that the congress of Chili recently voted the necessary amount to carry out the project of establishing an exhibition which shall be confined to mining machinery and that the government will pay the freight on such machinery to and from any part of the United States, reserving the right, however, to demand from the exhibitor the return of such outlay in the event of his exhibit being sold in Chili or elsewhere in South America.

The exposition will be held in Santiago, opening in April, 1894, and continuing until June 30th. Power will be supplied free to all exhibitors, and work will be furnished in quantity sufficient to illustrate in a practical manner the operations of the machinery. In addition to mining machinery there will be admitted electric appliances, wire rope and other devices used in practical mining.

### BISMARCK'S ILLNESS.

Concerning the illness of Prince Bismarck so many different versions are afloat that it is difficult to ascertain the actual facts. It is now stated, however, on what appears to be good authority that the illustrious German statesman suffers from neuralgia in the face and also that the inflammation of the left lung continues. Bismarck suffered from an attack of this malady in 1855 and was then laid up for several months, and his friends now fear that the recurrence may prove fatal. The dispatches say that the prince is very pale and his tremendous head appears to be much smaller than usually. He receives guests, reclining on a sofa and spends most of his time reading or listening to the reading of papers.

### GETTING TO THE POLE.

The dispatch announcing that a whaling vessel had penetrated to within six degrees—414 miles—of the north pole, although subsequently modified, is of surpassing interest to the scientific if not to the general world. The revised figures may and doubtless will add to the distance somewhat, but if they are even approximately correct some previously unknown conditions are shown to prevail near the summit of the arctic zone. The long-cherished idea of an open circumpolar sea is severely shaken if not altogether destroyed as a result of the achievement, it being shown that the pole could have been reached on the ice if the expedition had had dogs and sledges.

It may be an event of the future and the near future at that, that the north pole will be reached by man, and that he or those who accomplish the feat will live and return to tell us all about it. It will doubtless prove a very entertaining story despite the hardships insurmountable that will have been met and overcome; but what else? The appearances spoken of would indicate that the earth's pinnacle is a region of frozen barrenness, uninhabited by man if not by beast; so

that all that shall have been gained will accrue to that narrow circle of the world's people whose occupation demands geographical and scientific data upon which to proceed. Of course it will add something to the prestige of those who first reach the northern end of the earth's axis, also to the nation they may represent; but this will be more evanescent in its character than if the discovery were one a little more accessible to mankind at large and of more practical consequence to those who might go there.

### THE WHITE HOUSE IS POSTED.

President Cleveland is described as the nation's physician during its financial illness, keeping his finger ever on the pulse and noting keenly the throbs which proceed from the heart and are felt throughout the system. This is not altogether a figure of speech by any means, the President being supplied with a telegraph instrument which keeps him electrically connected with every part of the country near and remote, great and small. It is thus that when there is a usual excitement or trouble anywhere information is received on the instant direct from the locality. During the Johnstown flood President Harrison and Mr. Halford are said to have spent a day and a night beside the ticker, giving orders for furnishing tents, porters, supplies, etc., for the relief of the survivors. We learn that wires were first permanently introduced to the executive mansion just before the inauguration of Hayes. He found use for them during the railway strikes and riots of 1877, when he was daily and nightly in correspondence with the troubled districts. After Garfield was shot the telegraph was kept busy for months distributing news about the dying President's condition all over the Union. Most of the regular correspondence between the President and officers of the executive departments is conducted over the White House wires. The same wire is the usual means of communication between the White House and the Capitol while Congress is sitting. The government owns the lines which connect the White House and the Capitol with all the departments. Congressmen employ these wires freely in sending messages to and transacting business with the departments, and Mr. Cleveland is constantly kept informed of the latest intelligence of consequence from all parts of the world as well as affairs of moment within our own borders. While by the aid of science a President may thus be much more efficient to the country because in constant touch with all parts, it is still maintained that there is nothing like actual contact with the people, and there is earnest hope soon to have a law requiring the chief magistrate occasionally to make visits to those sections with which he is not so familiar. It would result in great good to both the visitor and the visited and should receive attention without further delay.

ENGLAND'S WIDOWS outnumber England's widowers by rather more than half a million. Of English women it is popularly believed that they never resign and seldom die.