

CURRENT EVENTS IN EUROPE

Growth of the British Navy.—A New International Railway.—Revival of Oriental Commerce.—Is Marriage a Failure?—Picnics for Gipsies.—Affairs in France.—Italian Colonization.—Napoleon's Birthday.—Bulgarian Brigands, Etc.

The mimic warfare in which a portion of the British navy has been lately engaged, has been one of the best methods that could have been devised to keep up agitation in the cause of naval reconstruction. While British shipbuilders have been building navies for the principal nations of the world, comparatively few Englishmen could have been made believe that many of Britain's cities were, in case of war, in danger of being taken by just such ships as have been built on the banks of the Clyde and the Mersey.

The London Statist asks the question, "Why is it that Prince Bismarck is able to change his allies as he pleases? Simply," it replies, "because the German army are incomparable. If the English navy was to all other navies what the German army is to all other armies, our alliance would be as eagerly sought as is the German alliance now; and in the same way possible ill-wishers would be just as little eager to incur our hostility. The real policy of England, then, is to increase her navy with as little delay as may be, until it is clear to all the world that it is capable of protecting her own possessions and her own commerce all over the world, and, at the same time, of sweeping every hostile ship from the ocean; and when we have done that we may laugh at the hostility of possible enemies."

During the past month there have been launched for the British navy three new ironclads of the most improved patterns, and this but a commencement of what will be done in the next ten months.

In the conflict between Sir Morrell Mackenzie and the German doctors, Sir Morrell is getting the best of it. In the first place, he has been able to prevent an English translation of the German doctors' report. Then he published an answer which has been extensively read throughout the British Islands. And lastly he has sold the right of translation of his reply to an eminent German physician, Dr. Bergmann, for 15,000 fr. This is the same Dr. Bergmann who was one of the Emperor Frederick's physicians and dismissed from the German official report.

"The world moves for all that," said Galileo, and a similar expression might have been made by European residents in Constantinople on Aug. 14th when the first regular passenger train arrived in the Sultan's capital direct from Vienna, after a journey of 48 hours' duration. In all the principal towns along the route there was great rejoicing. Among the passengers were several Austrian government officials, the President of the Bulgarian "Sobranje" and a number of leading journalists. The train consisted of an engine, baggage car, four passenger coaches and a genuine sleeping car of the Pullman pattern.

There will now be daily communication between Western Europe and Constantinople, and as soon as the Turks can be prevailed upon to see the wisdom of the proverb that "Time is money," the journey as at present arranged will be considerably shortened. For the moment the Turks seem rather out of temper and protest against the festival character of the inauguration. It was to be expected that our turbaned friends would grumble while the rest of the world rejoices at the establishment, though a tardy, of railway traffic between the east and west.

With the projected railway from Constantinople to Damascus completed a wonderful social and political transformation may be expected to take place. It would indeed be hard to describe the consequences of this new commercial artery, and those that will soon connect with it. They will doubtless act upon the peoples whose countries they traverse, like a galvanic current upon a partially paralyzed limb. The opening of this railway should mark the beginning of Turkish regeneration. The Turk now finds himself compelled to choose between accepting western customs or having them forced upon him. From present appearances the day may be near at hand when Damascus and Jerusalem shall be numbered among the leading commercial cities of the east.

At this season of the year when politics are dull the claims of social and moral reformers are brought more distinctly before the public. One of these, a Mrs. Caird, has been setting forth, in the pages of the Westminster Review, the grievous wrongs inflicted upon woman-kind by matrimony, and contends that woman has been degraded by the Protestant ideas of marriage. This article has called out a vast amount of correspondence, directly opposed to Mrs. Caird's position. One of these, an unknown author, has issued a work entitled "A study of life," in which it is claimed that it was Romanism that degraded woman, and caused her to be looked upon as the most fatal enemy of man's spiritual nature. That every step in the march of civilization, has been marked by the extension of rights

and privileges to the weaker sex, and that the true ideal of life will be only reached when each recognizes in the other a co-equal, and a co-worker and both shall work together for the elevation of the race.

The so-called moral reformers, or at least that portion of them known in London, as the "Band of Love," are now exercising themselves not in reclaiming the destitute and the outcast, not in attempting to alleviate suffering; but in getting up a number of picnics for the young gipsies in Epping Forest, "and thus try by the help of God to do some of them a little good." But how are they going to do it? When their young Bohemians shall have filled themselves with bread and butter and cake, will they be likely to favor psalm singing and sermons. Of course young gipsies cannot be preached to without the older gipsies being preached at also; and what could be more ridiculous than such a picture with a background of adult gipsies of either sex quaffing on their banquets, sullenly smoking their pipes, and listening with darkling brows and flashing eyes to the eloquent outpourings of these self-constituted apostles of "The Bond of Love." This one movement is sufficient to show in bold relief the miserable farce of these sectarian movements.

The House of Commons has adjourned until the 6th of November, having carried through successfully the local government bill, the Parnellite inquiry bill, and many minor measures.

In Paris the strikers and revolutionists have for the moment been deprived of a common center of activity by the temporary closure of the "Bourse du Travail." Still meetings take place in various parts of Paris, at which the language used is of the most violent description. If there was nothing in these meetings of workmen but an economical discussion between wage-earners and capitalists everything could be easily settled. But unfortunately the revolutionary party meddled with these disputes and envenomed matters. The Revolutionists are to be found at the workmen's meetings, but they never work. What do these Revolutionists want? may be asked. Simply to throw everything into confusion. It is this party which watches all occasions of social suffering and industrial crisis, and which festeres solely to aggravate the evil and to render it incurable. Should a financial crisis come when work would be suspended though for only a single week, we have good reason to believe these Revolutionists will make the most of it. By the way the chances of a financial crisis are not improbable. In 1871 the total annual expenditure was five hundred and fourteen million dollars. The present year it is estimated at a little more than seven hundred and five million dollars. The national debt is now over seven thousand millions of dollars. Time after time it has been shown that military expenditure has little to do with it. Unproductive public works have proved to be the gulf into which the resources of France have been annually flung, without any benefit to anybody, except to a handful of constructors and negotiators of loans. La Justice writes:

"It is evident that we are marching onward with eyes voluntarily closed to a bottomless pit. We must not say toward bankruptcy—it is a big word. There can be no doubt that French finances are in a critical condition. France has so abused the loan system, that she can no longer borrow with facility."

The "Dark Continent," as Africa is sometimes called, is the last grand division to be opened up to civilization, and many European nations are putting in their claims for a piece of its territory. Italy has lately taken possession of a small portion on the eastern coast. The late defeat of the Italian troops by the Abyssinians has been very much exaggerated. The contending forces on each side consisted of native troops, and did not amount to more than six hundred men. The natives in the service of the Italians were commanded by Italian officers who were killed in the engagement and very likely betrayed by their own men. The employment of native troops always presents considerable difficulties, as the British have found in India. Even there natives are not always to be relied upon, as was shown during the great mutiny. This slight check of the Italians will probably result in increased efforts at colonization.

The French protest against the occupation of this territory, commonly known as Massowah, will have no effect on the European powers except to kindle the wrath of Italy. Massowah, at the time of its capture was a sort of No Man's land and Italy had no doubt as much right there as France had to plant colonies in Algeria and Tunis.

The 15th of August seems destined to become a general holiday throughout France. For centuries it has been recognized by French Catholics as the Festival of the Assumption. It is also the anniversary of the birthday of the great Napoleon. From this coincidence it seems destined to be generally observed as a holiday. This year it was almost universally observed throughout France, not merely by Catholics and Bonapartists but likewise by republicans as well.

From Bulgaria have lately come repeated reports of brigandage until at length several European governments have taken official notice of it, and the Bulgarian government has been in-

formed that the luxury of brigandage cannot be permitted in well ordered states. The English tourists who were captured happily escaped, but the Austrian subjects that were recently arrested by brigands in Bulgaria, after suffering much hardships were only released on payment of a heavy ransom. The putting down of brigandage is all the more imperative on the Bulgarian government, as the international railway from Vienna to Constantinople will doubtless convey many passengers who possess sufficient money to make it a temptation to brigands to rob and murder them. Any neglect of common police regulations on the part of the Bulgarian government will speedily put an end to its existence and hand it over to Russia, to the great joy of most travelers who object to being plundered, notwithstanding the halo of poetry thrown around it by the Bulgarian bandits.

J. H. W. Europe, August 23, 1888.

CALIFORNIA SCENES.

Described by One Recently on the Spot.

Editor Deseret News:

No one can claim to have seen California who has not visited the Cliff. This is a very lofty precipice looking out over the bay and ocean, and from which a descent may be made to the beach by roads constructed with much labor. Not far from the Cliff House grounds may be seen the seal rocks. About thirty or forty seal were lying lazily on the rugged surface of these rocks, and looked as if they were at home in this region. Seal skins do not appear in the natural state like the embellished articles of apparel worn by ladies would indicate. They are of a more drab or dim color, and do not show signs of that beautiful rich appearance which is supposed to be such an attraction to an unmarried lady, and such a powerful means of reconciliation among loving couples after marriage. The dyeing of seal skins is quite an art, and was discovered in London, I believe, or at least the secret of the most perfect method is owned by a London house, and helps to render the article quite expensive, both in England and America. A first-class, well prepared seal skin costs in California about \$20 and upwards. The same kind however might be obtained in England for about half that sum.

There are three seal rocks at the cliff, and all of them were inhabited, at least for the time being by these peculiar denizens of the deep. Only a little distance above the Cliff house is what is known as Sutro heights. This is a private park owned by Mr. Sutro—a millionaire about fifteen financial feet high. The grounds are beautifully laid out and there is statuary of almost every conceivable kind, and in every nook and corner. Statues surround the extreme edge of the heights which overlook the Cliff, and from the highest point steps have been cut out of the solid rock down to the road below, along which are constructed seats in the shape of mushrooms, as though they had grown there. Each mushroom, being two branches, furnishes seats for two—if they are young and good looking. Otherwise or if onions have been indulged in, they can communicate with each other from their respective mushrooms, at a respectful distance. Mr. Sutro lives in a palace that looks like marble. It is elegant in the extreme. Like most millionaires, his wife does not live with him, I understand. But in California the curtain is drawn over the private life of the pets of society. Mr. Sutro is rich and though advanced in years is good looking. He rides a nice pacer, and seems to take life about as easy as most men of means. A gate keeper stands at the large gate to admit vehicles and horsemen to the grounds. The small gate is for pedestrians. All are free to come and go, but strict injunctions are posted up, not to pluck the flowers or walk upon the grass—in fact all those little restrictions common to places of resort. No lunches are allowed on the premises, so that an Englishman is not likely to stay over the dinner hour unless invited into the palace, which does not occur very often, I fancy.

Everything around the premises denotes wealth and care to keep it in order. One very pleasing feature is the comic character of many of the smaller statues in the garden. Models from the caricaturists are quite plentiful and striking, tending to enliven the scene remarkably, and to recall pleasant persons and reminiscences. And such characters as Mr. Dombey standing among the lilies, or Barnaby Rudge nestling in the chrysanthemums furnish quite a novel picture in a great man's garden. These sights can be reached and seen for a dime, being a five cent fare on the cable car and the same on the train. How do they make it pay? The usual way I suppose, the immense number that are induced to go keep the cars full, and a substantial interest in a saloon, restaurant and hotel help to make the road a good money investment.

I will probably furnish a tall to my literary kith by describing some society points in a few days.

GALLIC.

A bushel of corn makes four gallons of whisky. It sells for \$16 at retail. The government gets \$3.60, the farmer 40 cents, the railroad \$1, the manufacturer \$1, the vendor \$7 and the drinker all that is left—delirium tremens.

THE BOOK OF DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS.

BY J. M. S.

Half a century has been carried away on the tide of life towards the ocean of eternity since the voice through which came the revelations contained in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants was silenced in death. The witness fell like a genuine witness for the truth: he died as a martyr, and his soul took the room prepared for him under the altar in the courts of God's holy temple.

In vain has the world ever since cherished the hope that the noble work for which the martyr lived and died should wither and die like a plant without nourishment. The hope has not been fulfilled. The work still lives. And it has grown and swelled to such dimensions that now one of mightiest powers on earth finds herself constantly troubled with the "problem," while in many circles throughout the whole religious world its influence is being felt and it makes a progress which nothing can stay. The work was not of man out of God.

The Seer and the Interpreter Joseph Smith, Jun., with a voice, mighty as an archangel's, proclaimed to the people of the nineteenth century was no "cunningly devised fable," it was a clear and irrevocably announced that God would soon bring the "times of the gentiles" to a close, gather in the "fulness of the gentiles," and establish on the earth that kingdom of peace of which he had spoken through the mouth of His holy prophets from the beginning of the world.

And this announcement was testified to by repeated manifestations of the radiant glory of the Divine Majesty on high, by numerous signs and wonders and prophecies, and it was sealed by the blood of those who were called to be messengers between God and man.

Anybody whose mind is open to truth and who will consider the religious phenomena as recorded in the annals of the human race, must be impressed by a strong conviction that the same God who anciently spoke through Noah, through Moses, through the Prophets, through the Son and His Apostles, has in these days spoken through the Prophet Joseph. The mission of Joseph, the laying of the foundation of the Church of Christ in the latter days, is nothing but the literal fulfillment of the predictions of former ages. Many of the visions of Ezekiel, Daniel and John the Revelator were nothing but the reflex of this glorious work, the brilliant rays of which illuminated their horizon, and they rejoiced exceedingly in the view of peace and happiness which they beheld as the completion of this work. Without it one important part of God's plan of salvation could never be found, and the whole would be incomplete.

When we know that the revelations, doctrines and covenants, contained in the book known by that name, claim to be Divine in their origin, and that the Prophet shed his blood in testimony of their truth, how dare we turn away without examining them? Is not such conduct criminal enough to condemn anybody before the bar of God?

It has been said that the imperfect language found in the book is an evidence of its human origin. Indeed, this seems to be the gravest charge ever made against it.

It may be true that in some instances the language does not conform to the latest rules of English grammar, and yet I contend that there are passages which for beauty of style may be compared to the most excellent language of David or Isaiah. See for instance Section 109, containing the dedicatory prayer offered up in the temple at Kirtland.

But even if these sentences were as imperfect as they have been said to be by our enemies; if the book was as void of rhetorical beauty as it is said to be, how could that be a proof against its Divinity?

A piece of gold is gold as much before as after it has been worked into an ornament. A diamond is a diamond even before it has been cut. If the language proves anything at all, and if we are allowed to reason from analogy, we would, it seems to me, be justified in reasoning the other way and say that the very imperfections in grammar are proofs in favor of the divinity of the book. In nature we see gold mixed with inferior substances, diamonds with gravel. Would it then be strange, if heavenly truths were to be found imbedded in homely language? Indeed not! Were it otherwise, we might doubt whether the God of nature were also the God of revelation.

If we examine the writings of the New Testament, for instance, we will find that the language of the Apostles of our Lord is very far from perfect from a grammatical point of view. The greatest Greek scholar of Sweden is reported as having said on one occasion very irreverently: "Jesus was a pretty good man, but he spoke darned bad Greek." Those that contend that no inspired teachings can come through an imperfect language ought on that very ground to discard the New Testament. For the language of the New Testament is very far from classical Greek. It is the Attic dialect, considerably mixed with other dialects and the whole modified by the Alexandrian modes of thought. You will therefore find words of Aramaean, Latin, Persian and Egyptian origin. Some words are peculiar in their spel-

ing or form, in their inflexion and gender, and some words and phrases are used in a sense peculiar altogether to these writers. He who can accept the New Testament need not reject the Book of Doctrine and Covenants on account of its language.

But after all, it is not by the language, the outward dress, that this book or any book of God must be judged. It is by its contents. And if we compare the contents of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants with the contents of the Bible, we will be satisfied, for by this criterion it is a perfect book.

Its pictures of God and of human nature are the exact counterparts of those pictures as found on the pages of the Bible. Its morals are in every particular the morals of the Bible. And the plan of salvation through faith and obedience is identical with that of the Bible. The revelations given are, moreover, exactly suited to the peculiar circumstances of the people of God, and exhibit in this respect the perfect wisdom of God as well as a perfect analogy to the revelations given in ancient ages.

Such are the conclusions to which a student of the book of Doctrine and Covenants must come if he studies with a mind willing to find truth.

The book bears the marks of its divinity on its very surface, so plainly that "he who runs can read." Let, therefore, every man beware how he receives it, and, having received it, how he follows its precepts, for it contains the Word of God.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Hokusai, a Japanese author, has published a new novel in ninety volumes. He is evidently writing for posterity.

Princess Sophie of Prussia, who has been betrothed to the Crown Prince of Greece, is 18, and her fiance 20.

The nominees for lieutenant-governor on the Connecticut and Wisconsin democratic tickets are both farmers, wool-growers and in favor of free wool.

The question that has long troubled butchers—viz., what causes the wool taste in mutton?—is again the subject of much discussion among the fraternity. The American Public Health association recently stated that the touch of the woolly coat upon the dressed flesh imparted a wool taste, and that there was a very noticeable difference in the favor of mutton taken from a sheep which has been for some time deprived of all excess in its woolly coat and that taken from a sheep which has a heavy fleece. The Hon. Cassius M. Clay of Kentucky, who is a recognized authority in matters relating to sheep raising, contends that the association is wrong. He recommends butchers to starve the sheep for 24 hours before killing, and then to cut the throat all around to the bone, allowing a free flow of blood. The sheep should then be dressed at once. The flesh will then be found perfectly sweet and without any perceptible wool taste.

Make Lime at Home.

There is no need whatever of running to the druggist and buying lime water every time it is needed. And, by the way, it is very useful to have in the house in case of sour stomach, etc. A teaspoonful of it with half a pint of milk will often make the milk quite digestible, while without the lime water it might sour and produce colic, or distress in the stomach. To make lime water, get a lump of good unslacked lime, the size of a hen's egg, or larger; put it into an old pitcher, and pour on a pint or so of water. As soon as it is slacked and cool enough, stir it with a spoon or stick and pour off the principal part of the milky fluid into a pint or quart bottle, leaving the dregs in the pitcher to be thrown away. Cork the bottle well, and let it stand quiet. In a few hours the lime will settle to the bottom, except what is dissolved in the clear water above it, and this water will nearly always be of uniform strength, when used down so it cannot be poured off without stirring the bottom, add more water, shake the bottle, cork it well, and let it again settle for use. Once a year or so, make up a new lot as at first. Lime the size of an egg will be enough for a good many quarts of lime water, which will practically cost nothing. At the ordinary temperature of 60 degrees, a pint of clear lime water contains only 9 1/2 grains of lime. (A pound is 7,000 grains.) Lime water is an anti acid, and is a little tonic also.—Prairie Farmer.

Polygamy is not permitted in New York, but ex-Fire Commissioner Brennan, who died recently, had four wives, to each of whom he had been married in this city, all of whom called on him at the hospital where he was taken to die. They were located in different districts, and as his business kept him from home several nights each week, he was not missed or his absence accounted for. There was something of a picnic the day of the funeral with four contestants for first place. This makes the fifth practicing polygamist discovered in New York city already this year, and it is safe to say there are as many in New York city today as in all of Utah.—Pomeroy's Advance Thought.