

at present on missions, one lately took up his duties as an officer in the army in Nebraska, and two were detained by business in Idaho. With these exceptions all the immediate descendants were present, down to the little tot in arms. On Friday some fifteen members of the family engaged in Temple work—a labor in which their deceased head always took so profound an interest; and the exercises on the birthday proper partook of all the agreeable elements of a family reunion and will prove an incentive to future repetitions of the same celebration. This is as it should be; keep fresh and green the memories of the founders of Zion!

CAPRIVI'S RESIGNATION.

The political sensation in Europe last week was the resignation of Chancellor von Caprivi from the high office he has held since the fall of Prince Bismarck. The first dispatches on the subject contained but little definite information concerning the true cause of the crisis, but later advices shed sufficient light upon the matter to show that the count was really dismissed somewhat after the manner of his illustrious predecessor. The case is all the more peculiar, because Count Eulenbergh, his political opponent and president of the minister council, has also resigned and because a successor has been chosen whose political views are said to be in harmony with those of the retired chancellor. The public are apt to look upon the whole affair as the outcome of the personal peculiarities of the German kaiser.

It has been well known for some time that difference of opinion existed between Caprivi and Eulenbergh. The former at the outset was opposed to severe measures against social democrats, while the latter favored a more stringent policy. Lately the divergence became so marked as to call for some recognition. The policy of the government had to be defined one way or the other. Early in the week the emperor was made to yield to the persuasive arguments of his chancellor, but this only led to more opposition by the ministers. Trouble arose when the emperor gave a reception to an agrarian deputation headed by Eulenbergh and an agrarian paper pointed to the circumstance as a proof that the latter's policy was the one favored by his majesty. Caprivi offered to resign, but remained on receiving assurance of his master's unqualified approval. Then an article appeared in the *Cologne Gazette* attacking Eulenbergh, whereupon this gentleman resigned. The emperor now sent word to Caprivi asking him whether he had inspired the attack upon the minister president. The chancellor replied in the negative, but admitted that he was in sympathy with the views expressed by the paper. William was not satisfied, summoned Caprivi and demanded that he publish a disclaimer. Caprivi refused this and chose the only alternative left. He resigned his position. It is known that Count Eulenbergh introduced the agrarian deputation to the emperor without first notifying the chancellor of his intention,

and that fact is looked upon as sufficient ground for the step taken by the latter.

Bismarck, as will be remembered, was dismissed because he claimed the right to receive and consult with the leader of the clerical party without notifying the emperor of his proceedings until he saw fit to do so; his successor fell, it seems, because he refused to admit the propriety on the part of the emperor to receive a political deputation without consulting him. The fall of Bismarck was a notification to the chancellor that he could have no political secrets; Caprivi's dismissal clearly implies that the political secrets of the emperor are none of his chief servant's business.

The crisis is looked upon as grave, coming as it does at a time when the illness of the czar has brought the political chess tournament of Europe nearly to a standstill. It is taken as a sign that the emperor, perhaps, intends inaugurating a policy radically different from that of Caprivi, who retires amid the unanimous eulogy of the European press.

Prince Hohenlohe, Caprivi's successor, is nearly seventy-five years old. As ambassador to France he made a very favorable impression in that country. He has lately held the position of governor over the once French provinces Alsace and Lorraine. In politics he belongs to the moderate conservative party and it is supposed he will endeavor to continue the peaceful policy of his predecessor.

DISPENSING WITH ELECTRIC WIRES.

When an electrician announces some great advance in his science, the public, instead of wondering that it has been made at all, wonder why it was not sooner made, so accustomed have we become to seeing this science making vast and rapid strides. So when an electrician of repute predicts that something, no matter how wonderful, will yet be accomplished with electricity, the public are quite ready to accept the prediction, and begin to look with impatience for its fulfillment.

The announcement, therefore, that the subtle fluid, if such it be, is being conveyed, and made to operate telegraph and telephone instruments, without wires, has occasioned no flurry, although it is more significant, and means more for mankind, than even the invention of the telephone itself. Electricity without wires! Think for a moment what this means. The mere doing away with the unsightly poles and strings now used for conveying the electric current, and the consequent saving of expense, are two small items involved in the new discovery.

Conveying electricity without wires means that man has penetrated a new realm of nature; that he has discovered new principles in her economy; and that results so stupendous that they defy any estimate, and even stagger contemplation, are not only probable, but inevitable. What changes will this earth witness when light, heat, power and intelligence are conveyed from point to point, without regard to distance, and with the aid of no other medium than

that which is embraced in the atmosphere which surrounds the earth, or in the earth itself!

And yet, according to the theory in which electrical inventors are now working, and which they claim to have demonstrated, this is what will be done in the near future. This theory may be thus stated: Ether is the medium which conducts electricity, as air does sound, or as water does waves. When the ether in the atmosphere, so to speak, is by means of a suitable mechanical device, made to vibrate at a given rate of speed, or pitch, another mechanical appliance, of suitable construction and delicacy, will respond to the vibrations, and reproduce them in audible sounds which can be understood, though no wire connects the two instruments. Vibrations of a given rate of speed produce sound; those of a higher rate produce heat; and those of a still higher produce light. It follows, therefore, that if sound can be transmitted by vibrating the ether, which is omnipresent, heat and light may.

The distance between the mechanical device which sets a-going the vibrations of the ether, and the device that catches those vibrations, and reduces them to the purposes of man, cuts very little figure. So far as experiments indicate, the ether acts without much regard to distance.

According to this theory the subject is fraught with immeasurable possibilities. For instance, ether comprises the ocean in which the planets float; hence conversation between their inhabitants and those of this globe, will be an easy matter, when once the initiative is taken. A concert taking place on Venus, presumably the home of such amusements, could be enjoyed by as many of the inhabitants of this earth as had access to a properly attuned "etherphone;" and on the same principle, wheat raised in our world could be ground by power generated in Jupiter, and mundane homes could be warmed and lighted from Mars.

The history, civilization and products of distant worlds would become as familiar to us as are those of the countries of our own. But why pursue the subject further now? Let us await and watch the progress of science and the development of the purposes of the Almighty.

LET THEM FIGHT IT OUT.

As the Japanese forces progress, it becomes evident that they follow a plan of campaign skillfully laid in all its details, and so far there seems to be no indication that they will meet with reverses. While one division of the army has successfully crossed the Yalu river and driven the Chinese forces back to Moukden, the capital of Manchuria, another division has effected a landing near port Arthur and is now under fair way to capture that stronghold. They will then be able to advance on Peking from the north and the south simultaneously, and probably contemplate to dictate the terms of peace within the very walls of the Chinese capital.

The sympathies of the rest of the world are somewhat divided between