

this extraordinary fortune of Berlin be explained? is asked. Almost entirely by its administration, which is, in many respects, a model. The population increases every year by more than 50,000 inhabitants. Two-third of this increase is due to immigration. Yet, the fact that one-third of the annual increase comes from the excess of births over deaths, proves incontestably the excellence of the administration. Very few, indeed, are the great cities of the world in which there are not every year as many deaths as births.

In respect to cleanliness, systematic government, good order and some other respects, there are few of our American cities that could not profitably imitate Berlin; perhaps in no place in the world is such emulation needed more than in New York and Chicago, the great rivals whose desire for further greatness seems to extend in but one direction only.

ANOTHER FLYING MACHINE.

Those who have constructed aerial flying machines or are going to do so do not thin out very rapidly, notwithstanding the utter absence of anything even suggestive of success in any of such contrivances so far. Now comes a man with a "skycycle," with which he proposes to sail from his abiding place—Portland, Oregon—down to the World's Fair and make it one of the attractions there. It was invented by a brother of Joaquin Miller, the poet, and is in the possession of Fred T. Merrill of Portland. He was recently in Chicago and informed the *Tribune* that arrangements for the manufacture of the new machines will be commenced as soon as a few minor changes have been made. He gave a partial description of the machine, refraining from minute details because the inventor has not yet patented some portion which he is now experimenting, with a view of reducing slightly the weight of the machine. Mr. Merrill said:

We have already used a heavy machine made of wood, ascended thirty feet from the ground, ridden 200 yards, made curves, and described a circle of 100 feet in diameter, alighting safely. The machine, all of aluminum, we intend to have weigh less than forty pounds, and can reduce it to thirty pounds if we can get along with a lighter balance-wheel than now used.

Each machine will have a parachute attached to the handle bar, which can be opened at will should the machine descend too rapidly in case of a breakage, or if the rider should stop pedaling. Our intention is to ride but a short distance above the ground, that being determined by the nature of the country over which we are traveling and the strength of the wind currents encountered, as well as their direction.

The speed which it is expected the contrivance will make is from thirty to forty miles an hour, and with the wind favorable it is claimed that at least fifty miles can easily be made. The machine is propelled by the ordinary motion of the feet, as with a bicycle on the ground. Gearing attached operates the wings, and the steering is by the handle, which moves a fan tail, or rudder. Beneath the machine hangs a swing like balance

weight to prevent the wind from turning the machine over and to give better steering way, the same as a center-board is used in a sailboat to hold its course against the wind. In starting, a crane or other large bird which runs along on the ground a short distance, using its wings at the same time, then rising in the air, is imitated. The skycycle will run on the land even with but a single wheel, and at the same time the wings are set in motion. All other machines made for aerial navigation require either steam or electricity for motive power, and thus, adding materially to the weight, require a larger and more cumbersome machine. This is dispensed with, as the motive power is furnished by the rider, and the machine is consequently much lighter than any other ever invented.

Mr. Merrill's description concludes as follows:

The wings and rudder are steered or changed in position by the hands of the operator, and he is left at perfect liberty to look over the country above which he is traveling, simply keeping his feet in motion. When high up in the air and desirous of sloping downward he can cease pedaling and turn the wings in such a manner that with the momentum already attained he gracefully comes sailing down like a bird that stops fluttering and floats with extended wings.

Perhaps the skycycle will do all that is claimed for it, but one would run a very small risk in saying at once and without hesitation that it will not. Aerial navigation is still an unsolved problem, except to the beings which were created for that purpose.

A BONAPARTE AMONG US.

There is at present a distinguished visitor in this city whose name alone is reminiscent of the rise and fall of nations, the changing of bound any lines between them, plots and counterplots with emperors, kings, popes and princes as the actors, and statecraft made a game of chess with the nations of Europe as the squares and those whose at in authority as the pieces. It is Roland Napoleon Bonaparte, a grandson of Lucien Bonaparte—he who was once offered the thrones of Spain and Italy on condition that he (Lucien) would divorce his wife, who was disliked by the ruler. But the grandfather of our visitor was not the trafficker in wives that his brother was; he married because his regard and affection led him that way, not as a measure of diplomacy or a political maneuver, and this was not the only respect in which he differed from his brother, for he was a Republican while the latter was a dictator and a despot more or less restrained in accordance with the degree of success which his schemes met with.

The story of the Bonapartes is a romance the like of which the world never knew before or after. Stormy and placid, militant and peaceful, aggressive and yielding, progressive and reactionary, victorious and vanquished, white-winged and blood-stained—all of these at different times and several of them together at other times but neither long—were the characteristics of the house from the time of Napoleon's first triumph to the death of the prince imperial in a

foreign land. It is a chapter in the history of old earth which, however frequently it may be read, never becomes tiresome because there is always appearing from the pages some new incident or some different light is shed upon something previously known; and it all reads so much like the unreal—like the skillful product of an author whose range of fancy and power of delineation are unbounded—that we are insensibly fascinated and our attention is involuntarily given. While no longer a name to conjure with, it has lost little of its mystic potency in the domain of literature and history.

Our visitor resembles the Bonapartes greatly in facial appearance but not much otherwise, being a very large man and addicted to the field of letters, in which he has made quite a reputation. We bid him welcome.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

A short time since Secretary Carlisle issued an order suspending the issue of gold certificates, thus anticipating to some extent the requirements of the law, which provides that when the gold reserve in the treasury is below \$100,000,000 such suspension shall take place. The secretary was not prohibited from stopping the issue before that point was reached, it being altogether a discretionary matter with him; but after the point is passed, the law regarding suspension becomes mandatory.

It seems, however, by the telegrams that Mr. Carlisle is paying out gold coin in redemption of gold treasury notes, there having been issued in payment of the silver bullion purchases under the Sherman act, by means of which a steady drain upon the gold supply is maintained which is in no manner retrieved. The silver thus bought is set red away in vaults like so much pig iron instead of being coined and put into circulation. No wonder the danger of a gold famine and a general panic in financial circles is increasing rather than diminishing.

When the law spoken of was passed, undoubtedly the design was to coin and circulate the silver bullion purchased, this being a sort of compromise measure standing midway between actual demonetization and positive free coinage. But the spirit if not the letter of the law has been violated. As a result of this, the unholy cause of the demonetizers is strengthened greatly, while the administration is seriously embarrassed. Every bar of bullion that goes into the vaults of the treasury has a double reactionary effect—in the way spoken of by withdrawing a corresponding amount of gold, and by increasing the amount of material out of which to make white money without making it. It is high time something were done.

Perhaps the Brussels conference will afford us some slight measure of relief by making silver the exclusive coin of circulation up to a certain amount and a legal tender up to a certain greater amount. The indications seem to be growing that this will be the case. It is perhaps the best terms we can get and should be accepted without standing on the order of acceptance. It is used