DESERET EVENING NEWS.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, LESSEES.

Monday, [illegible] November 13, 1893.

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THE KAISER AND HIS BOAR HUNT.

A German paper sarcastically describes the royal boar hunt of Emperor William as "a mere court display which reflected no credit on the royal huntsman." All the same, it is so admirably significant of the boy emperor's displays generally that one is quite ready to accept even this hostile critic's description of it as being, in spirit at least, fairly reliable. He declares "the boar was deprived of its tusks and muzzled, taken to the scene of the hunt enclosed in a box, and when released the unfortunate animal trotted peacefully away until the emperor overtook and transfixed it with his spear."

This is not the sort of boar hunt we are accustomed to read about in the books. It is with some effort of the imagination that one can call up with any degree of justice, this robust Teuton sport as it was of old, in the same day that he reads of William's nineteenth century imitation of it. But the fancy would be quite as remarkable that from the reign of this young man could form any sort of estimate of the barbaric institutions of which he, as he now stands before the world, is one of the conspicuous relics. As he gives to this piece of royal foolery the name of "boar hunt," so in the rest of his courtly burlesque is perpetuated the memory simply of the pomp of his lordly progenitors. But there ends the similitude, and there also all that is real of his kingship. His forefathers reigned and governed by virtue of the power they swayed over semi-civilized men. He struts in their royal paraphernalia and plays with their insignia of authority through the sufferance of a conservative civilization. It refrains from brushing him and his playthings aside, not because it does not know his arrogance of power to be utter nonsense in its real operation of government, but because in the whirl of evolution that is surging past, it cannot at once settle upon a substitute equal to its full desires, and so he and many other unregenerate relics of savagery go on with their ancient exercising people who have entirely outgrown them and the system of government which they attempt to represent.

THE IRON MASK.

Recent explorations among the French archives threaten to have a disappointing effect upon the long treasured mystery as to the identity of the "Man in the Iron Mask." Romance and history have been busy for centuries with the incident, and the books that have been written to solve it would make a small library. Among the more familiar guesses as to the identity of the mysterious prisoner the reader will probably remember the following: That he was the son of Anne of Austria, queen of Louis XIII and the duke of Buckingham,—whose love affairs made some scandal; that he was a twin brother of Louis XIV, born a few hours later, and thus disposed of to avoid the chance of a dispute over the kingdom; that he was the count of Vermandois, a son of Louis XIV and La Valliere; that he was the duke of Monmouth, son of Charles II of England and Lucy Walters; that he was the duke of Beaufort, a leader in the insurrection of the Fronde; that he was Fouquet, the minister of finance whom Louis replaced by the great genius Colbert; that he was Ercole Matthioli, a secret agent of the duke of Mantua, who intrigued a political intrigue of the French [illegible] [illegible] and half a [illegible] [illegible] have been [illegible] by students of history. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] What has been pretty well proved is that [illegible] Saint Mars, commandant at Pignerol, a fellow on the borders of Savoy for 15 years previous, was in 1681 transferred to Exiles, a fort on the frontier of Piedmont, and then brought with him two prisoners, one of these died before January, 1687, and that the remaining one went with him, with the same mask, to the island of Ste. Marguerite, and that when Saint Mars became governor of the Bastile, in 1698, such a prisoner, his face covered with a black velvet mask, fastened by steel springs, accompanied him.

The latest hypothesis, however, is based, as stated, upon discoveries in the archives of the French ministry of war. The *Saturday Review* quotes a letter written in cipher recently deciphered, from Louis XIV to Louvois, his minister. In this letter the king orders Louvois to arrest General de Bulonde for having raised the siege of Coni without permission, to send him to Pignerol, and to conceal his features under a loup of black velvet mask. The order was executed, and the presumption is therefore strong that the "Man in the Iron Mask"—it was a black velvet one with iron springs—was Gen. de Bulonde. The story tallies with the known fact that the prisoner made repeated attempts to communicate his name to soldiers, that he was treated with respect by his military jailers, and that Louis XV, who knew the truth of the whole affair, declared it to be a matter of no importance. The difficulty is to discover the king's motive for such a proceeding; but he may have feared discontent among his great officers of the soldiery. It must, however, be possible to discover from the files in the war office whether Gen. de Bulonde was recorded as "missing" or "dead" about the right time. Of this there does not at present seem to be any doubt, and the mystery of the affair seems accordingly to have been at last solved.

DR. NANSEN'S VOYAGE.

And so after all these years—over two centuries indeed—of vain and unprofitable search for a northwest passage between the Atlantic and Pacific, the "passage" is likely to be found. The report is, to say the least, credible that Dr. Nansen when last heard from was in a fair way of getting through the frozen blockade. If he compasses the route his personal glory as a bold navigator will be strictly in the jostling of course the great and only Columbus. Such secondary gentlemen as Magellan and Cook will be very common persons.

But, come to think of it, while the world gives glory to the great navigator, what will he have to give in return? It will be something, of course—a legacy of pride in the unconquerable daring and vigor of the age for instance, to be handed on to its posterity. But—to keep as near to the point as possible, will there be anything in this splendid achievement which a committee on awards can determine in terms of dollars and cents? The value which practical men of this generation are most likely to attach to a "northwest passage" will depend considerably upon the use that can be made of it, and a "passage" that requires two centuries of constant experiment of the boldest seamen to make one trip will not be much for commerce. A longer route, fraught with less danger to the cargo, which such is available, will be more inviting to the voyager who navigates for profit.

Nevertheless, we shall give Dr. Nansen the credit of being a mighty brave and skillful seaman if he wins, and shall be correspondingly regretful if he fails, for failure in such an enterprise means more than the ordinary humiliation of defeat, as the bones of hundreds of brave fellows now sleeping in the polar snows will attest.

SOME SYMPATHY WASTED.

A great many accounts have been published regarding the cruel treatment of prisoners in Russia, and the severity of the punishment inflicted for comparatively slight offenses. The effect of this publication in America has been to create a strong feeling against the Russian administration of law in general, and to arouse deep sympathy for those in that land who were under legal penalties. To such an extent has this feeling grown that not to mention that a man who arrives in this country is a political exile is to cover him at once and without further investigation a vast amount of pity and commiseration.

While the published accounts may be true in general as to the treatment of prisoners, and the ministers be particularly unjustifiable from our point of view in the case of political convicts, it is a common mistake to believe that the Russian convicts by comparison [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

This is clearly exhibited in the case of several [illegible] exiles who arrived in America last week. [illegible] escaped from the Russian prison [illegible] Saghalien island on August [illegible] [illegible] had a [illegible] and [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible], but all succeeded in freeing themselves from this incumbrance. They stole a Japanese boat and with forty pounds of rice and a keg of water, started out to sea. As none of them were sailors they made little progress, but were able to get too far out to be discovered from shore, though they only accomplished forty miles from land in ten days. Then their rice and water gave out, and they suffered severely for three or four days. At the expiration of that time, on September 3, a whaling ship came along and picked them up. The revenue cutter of the United States on the 9th of this month, and landed five of the Russians.

The exiles, as they are called, complain of the injustice of their sentences under the Russian laws. Two were under sentence of eight, one ten and one fifteen years, and the fifth to imprisonment for life. This might be severe, and even unjust, in the case of political prisoners, but according to the statement of the five men, three of them are in for murder, one for counterfeiting, and the other for a deadly assault upon a government official. One says he killed his man accidentally, another says his is a case of mistaken identity, while the remaining three confess their guilt. The remark each one gives of himself shows that he caused the prison officials much trouble in violating rules and seeking efforts to escape.

Taken altogether, this kind of exiles is such as, of all classes, the United States cannot afford to receive within its borders. The sympathy which is showered upon them because of their being "Siberian exiles" is undeserved and there are wasted. It is all right to pity and shelter men who have been imprisoned for their political or religious views, but it is a shame that these real criminals, whose deeds would make them criminals in any civilized country, should be received and encouraged in this country, merely because they bear Russian names and come from Siberia. In California there is a cry raised, and justly so, when a Chinaman gains admission contrary to law; but when this quintette of convicts of the hardened class were landed in violation of the statute, they were publicly petted on the dock and informed that they need not fear being returned to the country whence they came, as the law requires that convicts should be. Such a course as this encouragement of convicts is not only inconsistent but dangerous to the internal peace of the country.

But the law officers did not take the same view of the situation as did the coast newspapers. The first five convicts who arrived, and who had secured positions in a dime museum, and the other five who landed on the 11th, were taken into custody next day, and are now in jail awaiting an investigation. This official action was taken, however, by the direction of the immigration commissioner at New York, who had none of the sickly sentimentalism that would have shielded the criminals. The latter now claim that they are political exiles, but their former recital of specific crimes for which they were being punished does not harmonize with this claim, which evidently is made in the hope of securing freedom. Russia is no doubt glad to get rid of the refugees, and the people of the United States should be equally sorry to receive them. They are not entitled to sympathy for their crimes, and their punishment was not any greater, if as great, as they would have been liable to in any country where wholesome laws are properly enforced.

GONE TO MEET HIS JUDGE.

Richard Parker, the judge who pronounced the death sentence upon John Brown, is now gone to his final accounting. Probably every man, woman and child now living who have learned to read, and millions who have passed away, know of John Brown, but how many of them have ever heard of Richard Parker? It is quite probable that the great abolitionist likewise used a large portion of his time to the memory of his death. The victim, however, understood that fairly well, so vividly inured that it all but reconciled him to his fate. He seemed to be touched to the death scaffold, to hear his name echoing to the tread of marching legions. He said as much to the judge, nor the latter did not comprehend his meaning quite so perfectly then as he did later, when the hosts of the north swarmed over his state sweeping everything before them to the tune of "John Brown's body lies a-mouldering in the grave, but his soul goes marching on."

But Judge Parker by this time has no doubt confirmed that some great will be unified speeds, and is ready to see that somewhere knowledge of the sublime of things which he never [illegible] suspected.

The Earl of Ava, son of Lord Dufferin, the noted English diplomatist, told to a New York reporter that he loved Salt Lake City and was much pleased by the handsome buildings [illegible] [illegible] style of architecture [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

A man of average weight, (say 150 pounds) who is worth his weight in gold, would be valued at about $35,000, at a ten pound basis, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] million, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] weight of a million dollar, standard gold coin, is one and two-thirds tons. A million dollars in silver would weigh about twenty-six and three-fourths tons. The same value in subsidiary silver coin should weigh twenty-five tons, while a million dollars in nickels would be about one hundred tons.

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