

servatory will occupy the ninth floor. There will be offices and stores innumerable also within the building.

The tower will be seventeen stories high. The top floor, which is 240 feet from the ground, will easily accommodate four hundred persons, and from it one can see for miles around. The signal service bureau will occupy the sixteenth story, and will have an observatory on top. There will be four elevators for the use of the tower alone, and eight others are distributed all over the building.

Ten thousand electric lights will illuminate the building. Twenty-five miles of gas and water pipes are laid within its walls. Four hundred thousand gallons of water will be consumed hourly. Twenty-one pumping engines supply this water.

There is a vast deal more in connection with the building that will interest, astonish and instruct the visitor. It is or will be the most magnificent and perfect structure that the world has ever seen.

There are in Chicago three other notable buildings which visitors should not forget to see. These are the Owings, the Tacoma and the new Chamber of Commerce.

The Owings building is situated at the intersection of Dearborn and Adams. It is built on a lot 50 by 75 feet. It is fourteen stories high. It measures 140 feet from the sidewalk to the main cornice line, 184 feet to the top of the gable and 228 feet to the peak of the coneshaped roof of the corner tower, the cone itself being 50 feet high. The walls rest upon massive pyramidal stone piers which stand upon a substratum of concrete imbedded and interlaced with railroad iron. There are steel girders on every floor, while at the top of the third and eighth stories heavy steel girders encircle the entire building.

The interior is absolutely fire proof, iron columns and steel beams being used. The corridor floors are of tile, and the wood of the office floors is bedded in concrete. It cost over \$300,000.

The Tacoma, at the corner of Madison and La Salle, was built for profit. The lot it stands on is 100x80 feet, and the most is made of it. Even space is economized in the walls. The two fronts contain no mason work whatever. The foundations consist of steel beams imbedded in concrete; from these rise strong iron columns which carry the superstructure. The height of the building is 165 feet from sidewalk to cornice. It cost \$500,000.

The new Chamber of Commerce is not yet finished. It stands on a lot 93x181 feet at the corner of La Salle and Washington. It will be the highest office building in the city, being 182 feet from sidewalk to cornice. Its top floor will be higher than the fourteenth floor of the Owings. The foundations are immense stone pyramids, and iron columns carry the superstructure. Its cost will be \$800,000.

There are many other immense buildings worth seeing. There are some residence flats twelve stories high.

JUNIAS.

CHICAGO, Oct. 2, 1889.

## CURRENT TOPICS IN EUROPE.

The correspondence of John Lathrop Motley, formerly United States Minister at Vienna, and subsequently at London, has lately been translated into German, or at least that portion which refers to continental matters. Perhaps the portion of the work that will be read with the greatest interest is his correspondence with Prince Bismarck. In their youthful days Motley and Bismarck had studied together at Gottingen and Berlin, and for some time they lived together in the same house in the Frederickstrosse in Berlin. There, it would seem, they not only studied but likewise talked, drank and sang together. One song of Motley's Bismarck never forgot:

"In good old colony times, when we were roguish chaps," and he quoted in his great speech in the Reichstag in 1888. The following is an extract from a letter written by Bismarck in 1864 to Motley, at that time United States minister to Vienna. The letter is written in English, but the German crops out in one or two singular phrases: "Jack, my dear—Where are you, and what do you do, that you never write a word to me? I am working from morn till night like a nigger and you have nothing to do at all. You might as well tip me a line as sit looking at your feet tilted against the wall. It happens to me that during five days of the week I do not find a quarter of an hour for a walk; but you, lazy old chap, what keeps you from thinking of your old friend? When just going to bed, my eye met yours in your portrait, and I curtailed the sweet restorer, sleep, in order to remind you of Auld Lang Syne. Why do you never come to Berlin? My wife and I would be so happy to see you once more in this sullen life. Do not forget an old friend. *Sei so gut und komm oder schreibe. Dein.* VON BISMARCK."

Haunted by pleasant memories, Motley answered his letter but did not go to Berlin until some time later. Perhaps he thought that a journey to Berlin at that particular moment would have been misunderstood by the Austrian government. The correspondence, however, between the two continued with great vigor. In one of these letters, while grave political events were on the tapis, it seems rather strange to hear Bismarck saying that he hates politics. He writes to Motley—

"You have given me great pleasure with your letter, and I shall be very grateful to you if you will keep your promise to write oftener and longer. I hate politics, but as you say truly, like the grocer hating figs, I am none the less obliged to keep my thoughts incessantly occupied with those figs. Even at this moment while I am writing my ears are full of it. Here I sit in the House of Big Phrases (Reichstag) and while excited politicians scold each other with the greatest vehemence I take the time at leisure and write you of my welfare. I say my dear Motley your handwriting is like crows' feet, but still legible."

Your faithful friend,

VON BISMARCK.

In 1872 Motley visited Bismarck at Varzin, and gives a summary of their conversation there. "Bismarck says that when younger he thought himself a clever fellow, but later years had taught him that nobody was really powerful or great. A man in his situation, he said, is obliged to decide promptly: If he guesses right, all the world says what sagacity, what prophetic power; if he guesses wrong, all the old women are ready to beat him with broomsticks."

As this work throws a flood of light on the chief political actors of twenty years ago, it forms a decidedly interesting "topic" in European conversation.

The account of the defeat of King John of Abyssinia and his subsequent death, also the establishment of a large Italian colony in the salubrious mountain region of Eastern Africa, are facts well known. King Menelek, the successor of King John, seems to be a wise and ambitious prince, and his present visit to Italy will doubtless have important results in relation to East African affairs. Following the time-honored custom which has prevailed in Oriental countries since the time when Jacob went forth to meet Esau, King Menelek has sent a remarkable present to King Humbert of Italy, the equal of which can scarcely be read of except in the Arabian Nights Entertainments. Besides a live elephant, three superb Arabian horses, ten Abyssinian mules with small ears, a large number of beautiful gazelles, and sixty-one elephants' tusks, valued at more than \$25,000, there are other presents of great value contained in sixty great boxes and packages. One of these contains a crown of massive gold, others contain vestments of silk, embroidered with gold and encrusted with precious stones, perfumes, etc.

Another important event is taking place in Northern Italy. Every Sunday now for more than a month have the Waldenses been celebrating the bi-centennial of their freedom from persecution and peaceable return to their native land. There is something indescribably charming in these Waldensian festivals beneath the grand old chestnut trees on the hillsides. There is something impressive in the fact that Louis XIV, their old persecutor, with all his vast power and numerous descendants, has passed away. The grand old palace of St. Cloud, where once he resided in more than imperial splendor, after having been repeatedly pillaged, was at length destroyed by the fury of a French mob. The powerful royal family to which Louis belonged, instead of increasing, has gradually diminished, until at length the last one, in the person of the Duc de Chambord, has lately expired. On the other hand, the dukes of Savoy, who protected the Waldenses, have risen higher and higher, until at length one of their descendants sits on the throne of United Italy, and under him the Waldenses enjoy a religious toleration equal to that of England herself. These Waldensian festivals have been vis-