THE DISSENSIONS OF NORWAY AND SWEDEN.

THE ever shifting storm center of European political struggle might be said to rest over the countries of Norway and Sweden at the present time. These two united nations do not seem to be getting along very well of late, and it is now even united that before very long there is likely to be open warfare between these two long quarreling countries. Whether or not the outcome will be a division of the Scandinavian peninsula is a question that only the future can tell.

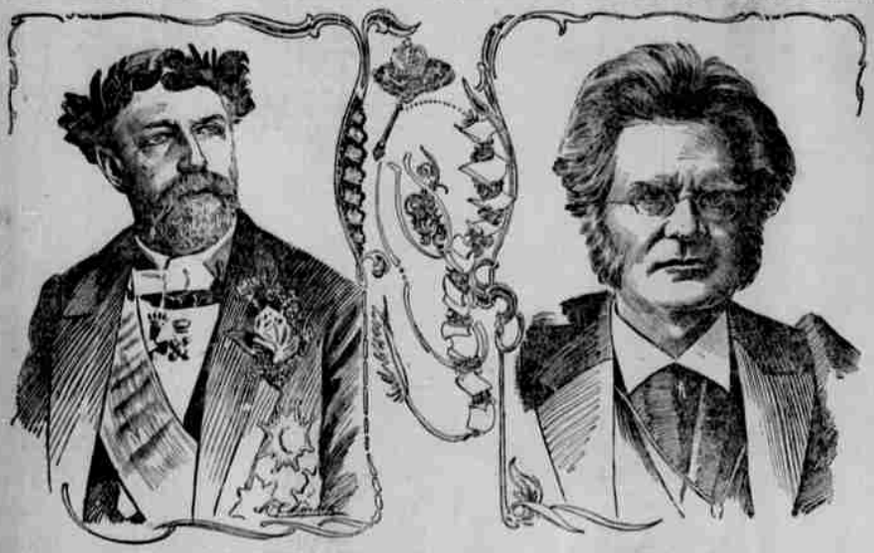
By the treaty of Kiel, 1814, Norway was handed over to Sweden as a little gift from the European powers, the latter, united with Sweden under one king. It is in no way a dependency of Sweden, as Canada is of England, or of England, though it was the policy of King Charles John to reduce, if possible, Norway to this position. From the time of his accession recognition until the present there has been continued friction between the two countries.

It was Bjornstjerne Bjornson who, in 1871, began the agitation for not only the doubting but the actual equality of the two nations. Foreign affairs have always been conducted by Sweden, and, while not quite all the diplomatic and consular representatives have been Swedes, they have been chosen, as and primarily stand for the interests of Sweden.

If one should be declared between Sweden and Norway, it is believed by students of European affairs that the treaty would by no means be restricted to the Scandinavian peninsula. Of late it has been apparent that Germany has great sympathy for Sweden, while there has been manifesting a corresponding fellow feeling with Norway. Until half a dozen years ago King Oscar, by reason of his level headedness and keen diplomacy, had been able to prevent any outbreak, though it was felt his actual sympathies were Swedish. But owing to the retirement from public affairs of this diplomatic, shrewd and very popular monarch and the unwelcome succession of the reigning crown prince all the old unrest has again made itself manifest. This unpopular crown prince, whose name is Gustave, is 21 years old and married to a daughter of Kaiser William I. Unlike his suave and cultured father, Prince Gustave has done little to conciliate the two belligerent parties which constitute his bipartite nation. In fact, his undisguised favoritism for Sweden has greatly increased the Norwegians, and now that the crown prince has forbidden all demonstrations of "Independence" in Norway has stirred up a political hornets' nest in that country. In fact, Gustave has been throwing himself the very antithesis of a royal soldier.

For some time he has proved himself possessed of all the iron will and uncompromising doggedness of his great Teutonic father-in-law. He is on terms of the most intimate acquaintance with the present Kaiser of Germany and has openly adopted many of his German cousin's traits and characteristics. Like the kaiser, he believes the mailed fist is better than the velvet glove in solving administrative difficulties.

A little over two years ago the crown prince took advantage of a public meeting at Stockholm to express his belief that the only possible way of putting an end to the long standing quarrel between Norway and Sweden was by force of arms. He also declared that he asked for nothing better than to be entrusted with the command of the Swedish army for the task of reducing his father's disloyal and rebellious Norwegian subjects to entire submission. As soon as the text of this inspiriting declaration was made known at Christiania the storthing, which was in session at the time, by an almost unanimous vote passed a measure suspending the pensions of the Norwegian contributions to the civil list of the crown prince. They took this act unreasonable ground that it was ridiculous to subscribe to the maintenance of a prince who openly and unreservedly proposed to lead a Swedish army into the territory of the people to whom he was looking for such financial support. King Oscar, when that the headstrong Gustave, advised retraction on the part of the prince, but the autocratic Gustave clung doggedly to his claim. The result of this and many subsequent ruptures of a like character is the clear impression that the present state of affairs in the Scandinavian peninsula cannot continue as they are. What makes the situation of today more ominous is the fact that the present regent is in the fear of his life to enjoy the sympathy and support of the entire Swedish aristocracy.



KING OSCAR OF SWEDEN. BJORNSTJERNE BJORNSON.

Famous British Divine.

The eyes of the church world are turned toward Dr. Temple, archbishop of Canterbury and head of the Church of England, who is raising golden opinions for the display of perhaps unexpected tact in dealing with several vexed "ecclesiastical questions of the moment. Dr. Temple is one of the best

known and best liked divines in England, and despite his official dignity as the head of the Church of England retains all his old time simplicity of personal tastes and habits, a simplicity so pronounced that it has occasionally led to rather amusing developments.

Many good stories are told at the expense of Dr. Temple, and he tells some of them himself and seemingly enjoys them. One of these which he considers among the best is the following: While visiting a country rectory, he was rather more amused than flattered by a lavish display of silver candlesticks in his bedroom. He promptly removed all but one pair of them. When he left the house, the treasures were missing, and in a few minutes the rector wired Dr. Temple in the hope of getting some information in regard to his loss. The reply to the message came promptly. It was: "Poor, but honest. Look in the chest of drawers."

DOCTORING AN EMPEROR.

Medical practitioners in China probably do not hunker after royal patients. A Chinese physician who was recently called to prescribe for the emperor was not permitted to look at his august patient, much less ask his questions. The younger emperor told him how the emperor felt as accurately as she could describe his condition, and the physician had to base his diagnosis on her guess.

Kipling as a Schoolboy.

In this era of Kiplingite the accompanying photograph of the author of "The Seven Seas" and "Soldiers Three," taken when he was a schoolboy, will be examined with interest. There was nothing remarkable about Rudyard as a boy. In fact, one of his schoolmates, who knew the author very intimately indeed when both were seeking together at Westward Ho, in Devon, England, has confessed that the juvenile Kipling was a mischievous, pig headed and altogether freckled and troublesome young man. He was so short sighted that he never appeared without glasses, and many early in life he won the sobriquet of "Gigs." He was never robust as a boy, but was possessed of indomitable stick-to-it-iveness. His brusque manner even as a boy prevented his making many friends.

It is from his Westward Ho experiences and memories that Kipling wrote his popular "Stalky" stories, which give a very representative picture of English schoolboy life.

A Cuban Baseball Team.

One of the most significant signs of Americanization in Cuba is the readiness with which the Cubans have taken to the national game of baseball. Santa Clara, Cienfuegos, Cruces and other towns have "clubs" organized on the American plan, equipped in the latest fashion, furnished with implements from American factories and using all the technical terms of the game in the American vernacular, but with quaint and funny accentuation. They play the game with understanding, skill and energy. Several times they have beaten handily the teams made up from the volunteer regiments in the island. The games draw large and enthusiastic crowds of spectators and afford strong temptations to the inveterate Cuban gamblers to stake their fortunes and fortune. With the suppression of cockfighting and bullfighting the game of baseball has been accepted as a happy substitute, and its popularity is sure to increase as its fine points are better understood by the populace. The photograph shows the Cienfuegos club on the grounds awaiting the Sixth Ohio regiment team, with which "a match" is to be played. The Cienfuegoseros expect to make a baseball tour in the States in the fall of the present year.

SAM W. SMALL.

Cienfuegos, Cuba.

Shrine of Roc Amadour

One of the most remarkable and one of the oldest shrines in France is that in a cave on the mountain of Roc Amadour, in the department of Lot. The mountain cave, according to tradition, was used as a hermitage by Zacchaeus, the publican of the Gospels, who pas-

sored from Palestine to France, bringing with him the miracle working black image of the Virgin, which is still an exhibition in the cave. This image is hewn from a tree trunk and is about 3 feet high. The altar and chapel, with the votive offerings left by pilgrims who have been cured, attract a great number of pilgrims to this end of the way corner of the earth.

The Fair Homestead.

Not long ago the marriage of Miss Virginia Fair and Mr. William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., attracted the attention of the world on account of the enormous wealth of the two contracting parties. The Fair family, however, were not always multimillionaires, as may be judged from the accompanying picture of the house where little Virginia, or

"Birdie," Fair, as she was then called, ran about barefooted as a village boy. In this humble cottage she lived until she was 7 years old. The house is situated in Virginia City, Nev., and is somewhat different from the luxurious mansion she will occupy as Mrs. Vanderbilt.

Monument For Sturdy "Old Put."

On the 9th of May, 100 years ago, there passed away one of the most remarkable figures of New England Revolutionary times. This figure was General Israel Putnam, and now the members of the Putnam Hill chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution have collected funds for a monument to marks the spot at Horseneck where this sturdy American soldier started on his celebrated ride down the precipitous cross steps when he escaped from General Tryon and his troops. It is proposed to procure an immense boulder as typifying the substantial character of "Old Put," and on this will be fixed a plate inscribed with a brief record of his famous exploit. This energetic chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution also proposes to purchase the cottage near the Greenwich and Pelham's it for a chapter house in old colonial style.

An Obsolete Cannon.

One of the oldest cannon in existence has just been fished out of the bottom of the Thames river near Twickenham. This archaic cannon is 18 inches in length and about 4½ inches in diameter, being made of bars of iron strengthened with hoops of the same metal welded together. Compared with one of our

modern "peace makers," as they are nominally called, one of these old cannon is a mere child's toy. They were originally mounted on cute blocks of wood, fitting in a sort of socket. Their discharge was a very undecided feature in their operation, and the death dealing articles fired at random from their mouths were round stones and rough pieces of iron.

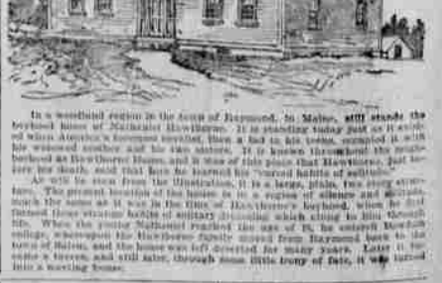
A Marvel In Metal Working.

One of the most famous metal workers of modern Japan is Choichi Suzuki, the artist to the imperial household. The Kensington museum in London possesses one of his most notable works, which is a large "Kiku" fantastically ornamented with peacocks. In the Kunstkammer of the Berlin museum is also a valued specimen of Suzuki's marvelous skill in metal working. The Berlin specimen is a magnificent eagle with outstretched wings. Beyond this, however, Europe can claim no further notable specimens of Suzuki's handiwork, as his work is now not allowed to pass outside of the Japanese empire.

There has just been brought to the United States, however, what is recognized as the most valuable and remarkable specimen of Suzuki's handiwork. This work, which is a flexible bronze dragon eight feet in length, is worth a small fortune and was secured in Japan by Mr. William H. Townsend, a wealthy citizen of San Francisco. The dragon is of a beautiful mottled green bronze of typical oriental workmanship and is made up of hundreds and hundreds of separable pieces, each one carefully finished and fitted by hand. Five years were occupied in the creation of this bronze piece of work, and today it is the most valuable Japanese bronze in existence. The dragon is so flexible and pliant as a snake, and the limbs, body and head of the strange creature can be twisted or turned in any direction.

Mr. Townsend, who is an enthusiastic collector of Japanese art work, also has in his possession a quaint Japanese proof letter written by Suzuki himself, giving the history of the bronze and the circumstances which caused the imperial artist to undertake its creation.

Hawthorne's Boyhood Home.



In a woodland region in the town of Raymond, in Maine, still stands the boyhood home of Nathaniel Hawthorne. It is standing today just as it stood when America's immortal novelist, then a lad in his teens, occupied it with his widowed mother and his two sisters. It is known throughout the neighborhood as Hawthorne Home, and it was of this place that Hawthorne, just before his death, said that here he learned his "varied habits of solitude."

As will be seen from the illustration, it is a large, plain, two story structure. The present location of the house is in a region of silence and solitude, much the same as it was in the time of Hawthorne's boyhood, when the dwelling first stamped habits of solitary brooding which clung to him through life. When the young Nathaniel reached the age of 15, he entered Bowdoin college, whereupon the Hawthorne family moved from Raymond back to the town of Salem, and the house was left deserted for many years. Later it became a tavern, and still later, through some little freak of fate, it was turned into a waving house.

A New Automatic Army Pistol.

It is interesting to note just at the eve of the peace congress of The Hague that Germany has introduced a new and more effective army pistol in imperial service. This new pistol is an automatic one, and a general idea of its appearance will be obtained from the accompanying illustration. It is so constructed that it can readily be secured on a wooden stock and at a moment's notice made into a carbine. One of its best points is the fact that the carbine stock, which can be attached to the pistol, can also be used as a case for the weapon when not in use.

EAR PIERCING IN CHINA.

Every Chinese woman has her ears pierced. In fact, the custom is nearly as universal as the boring of the feet. When the child is a year old, the operation may be performed as soon as convenient. It is considered quite an art.

First, two little tassels of red cotton are prepared, with a blue bead on each and a long red hanging bow. Then the child's ears are pinched till they are numb, when a needle is run through and the thread after it till the tassel hangs under the lobe, where it is secured. Of course the child often makes considerable objection to the operation, and then, if there is a kitten anywhere near, its ears are often pierced to encourage the human victim. This accounts for the frequency of cats with holes and slits in their ears in the Celestial empire.

STRAY FACTS OF INTEREST.

"Strangers sometimes mildly wonder what newspapers or pieces of black paper are tied on the windows of boleadas of certain houses for," says The Modena Herald (City of Mexico). "A sheet of paper thus arranged is a sign meaning that there are ruinos to rent in the house on which it is displayed and is just as significant in its paper as the golden balls over a pawnbroker's shop are in other countries."

The last living descendant of Dante, Cecchino Guanalini, has just died in Bologna. Being childless, she left her large fortune in the hospitals of Bologna. Cecchino Guanalini's mother was the Countess Maria Theresa d'Alighieri, who was descended in direct line from and retained the name of the illustrious Italian poet.

Mr. Hiram Maxim says Mr. H. O. Forbes and Mr. Cuthbert-Grant went on an exploring expedition to the island of Socotra on behalf of the British and Liverpool museums. They have just returned from their mission, which is said to have been very successful. The whole of the coast of the island has been for the first time correctly surveyed and mapped and much valuable information obtained regarding its zoological features. The collections obtained contain several hundreds of specimens, and in testing the fauna of the place, many of which are believed to be species new to science.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. Stanley have adopted a little boy, and they have now bought a country place so that the baby can have the benefits of out of door life. A proclamation has been issued in Malta announcing that after 15 years the English language will be substituted for the Italian in all the courts in the island. Like the use of the French language in Egypt, the use of Italian has been a grievance to the English of Malta.

Miss Ellen Burdett, a young American woman, is said to have purchased the Pompeian palace in the Court la Salle, Paris, built by Prince Jerome Bonaparte 60 years ago, with the intention of turning it into a restaurant during the Paris exposition. The decorations are to be preserved as much as possible, and the waiters, all of them prominent literaries, will be dressed in ancient Pompeian costume.

The bedroom of Hoxe is an exceedingly choice and a perfect host as well, albeit he is blind. He gave an exhibition of his musical skill in the Imperial of the Rue Boaptin, Paris, the other day, his audience being quite chic, consisting as it did of royal highnesses, imperial highnesses and royal highnesses, great ladies from the Faubourg and the cream of foreign society.

Miss Berry, a daughter of Sir Graham Berry, formerly Liberal premier of Victoria, and Miss Godfrey, a daughter of a member of the Victorian upper house, have both passed with credit the examination prescribed by the dental board of that colony, have been duly registered and have entered into partnership in the medical quarter of Melbourne.