

tive to minister Ogan, Senor Godoy emphatically declares every interview had by him was entirely confined to the question of commercial reciprocity between the United States and Chile.

Several prominent government officials will be shot to-morrow after a trial by martial law.

Referring to the silver shipment, Senor Godoy says Balmaceda bought the Italian steamer "Aquila" at Montevideo. The owners required cash. The United States navy department allowed the "Baltimore" to carry the money for him. British Minister Kennedy obtained permission for the "Espergle" to convey the same to an English bank at Montevideo. The steamer was bought for £140,000, of which £80,000 was to be used to furnish the fixtures and gas. The "Aquila" was to be fitted out for a cruiser. The bullion has gone to England.

Balmaceda's officials at Coquimbo have cut the English cable there and refuse to surrender and will make a fight. The "Esmeralda," with the "Lynch," goes to Coquimbo to-night. Transports with troops will follow.

Procurator Discal, who prosecuted cases against the men who were alleged to be in the plot to blow up the torpedo boats "Admiral Lynch" and "Admiral Condell" and the transport "Imperial," which resulted in the execution of Cummings and two others, was taken out and shot today.

The presence of the political refugees on board the American and German warships has been the cause of several conferences and much ill-feeling. A formal demand for the surrender of the refugees was made yesterday on the United States and German Admirals. After a conference the two naval officers informed the Intendente that they would decline to surrender the men unless proper guarantees were given that their lives would be safe until they had a fair trial.

Acting Secretary of State Wharton's action in still refusing to recognize the Junta, now that it is practically the only government in Chile, is the subject of adverse criticism here, and it is openly hinted that there must be more reason for it than appears on the surface.

NEW YORK, August 31.—The World prints as a Valparaiso special the statement that the insurgents owe their success in a measure to the skill and experience of Colonel Keoper who was brought from Germany by the Chilean government as an instructor in modern warfare, but who quarreled with the Balmacedans and gave his services to the opposition.

The fighting was not only fierce but fiendish. The bodies of the Balmacedan Generals Barbosa and Alcerreca, who fell in the hottest part of the engagement, were frightfully mutilated.

At sundown a riotous mob of laborers united with the rabble of deserters from the government set fire to and looted many buildings on the outer end of the city belonging to Balmaceda's partisans. Fourteen fires raged all night but are now under control. Two million dollars' worth of property was destroyed. The city rang all last night with rifle reports and this morning the bodies of 200 rioters and pillagers littered the streets.

VOLAPUK AT CHAUTAUQUA.

The second annual convention of the North American Volapuk Association, which has just completed its work here, has made evident several important facts. It has demonstrated that the language is no mere experiment if a large and varied literature in every civilized country; a half-hundred newspapers published in half as many countries, with an uninterrupted issue, in some cases, of ten years, and a vocabulary so rich that it can express comprehensibly poetry, science, history and romance, are evidences of life and diffusion.

Even more, the opening exercises of the first of four public sessions were in the language itself. Col. Charles E. Sprague, a well known New York scholar and banker, as head of the American Volapuk Association, addressed his constituents in Volapuk and routine business, involving parliamentary proceedings and participated in by many persons, were all in this artificial language—a language sweet enough to be attractive even when not intelligible, and yet *enigmatica* enough to impress its distinctiveness upon one familiar with language sounds.

A speaker with something to say followed Col. Sprague and prudently chose English to suit the understanding of his attentive audience. This was Mr. Alfred A. Post, of Boston, who represents as its chief the Volapuk movement in Massachusetts. His story was of the adoption of Volapuk by the Boston school committee as an elective study in Boston's Evening High School, and of the numerous clubs and classes formed in various towns throughout the States for the study and use of Volapuk. The array of statistics on this line was a revelation.

Mr. E. D. French of New York, who was an earnest speaker, with a sympathetic voice, gave an instance of the language proving a valuable international medium for the discussion, correspondentially, of an art question.

This was followed by an exhibit of a wilderness of Volapuk literature, newspapers, text books, volumes of history, poetry, translations of books of the Bible, the Roman Catholic prayer book, almanacs, calendars, menus, dance flats, theatre programmes, books of plays—in fact of every sort of printing which the natural languages display. Here were single specimens of an entire year's series of forty-seven journals, a hundred or more grammars and dictionaries for a quarter as many different-speaking people. The Conspiracy of Cataline, the Eclogues of Virgil, the Gospel of St. John, the Proverbs of Solomon, the fairy tales of Grimm, and even an original volapuk drama, were in this large collection, while charts of language, pure and simple, and charts comparing it with other languages were abundant. It was both amazing and instructive, this exhibit; amazing because the life of Volapuk is yet an infant one; instructive because it shows how wide-spread and varied is the use of the language.

A highly effective feature of the association's proceedings was a lecture-lesson on Volapuk given at the second day's morning session. In three-

quarters of an hour Col. Sprague, the lecturer and a model instructor, had demonstrated the simplicity of the language by the *argumentum ad hominem*, for he had not only shown the noun's inflection and the verb's conjugation, but had actually so familiarized his audience with them and with the adjectives, adverbs and prepositions that the responses came fast and many to his question "how would this be expressed in Volapuk?" The auditors had, in hearing about the language, actually learned it by insensible absorption.

This was Mr. Post's opportunity, for his listeners could then readily credit his statement that a certain language professor gave him attention as he explained the language, in twenty-seven minutes by a stop watch, and was then able to fairly well translate into Volapuk a paragraph from a newspaper. Mr. Post followed this incident by stories of almost as amazing an acquirement of Volapuk by other persons of both sexes. He summed up by estimating the average time needed to acquire a working knowledge of the language as ten three-quarter hour lessons, without home study. Think of this weary students of even French, Italian or Spanish in six month courses with a result of realized insufficiency to order a meal at a restaurant in a loud tone of voice! Volapuk in a few hours,—any other language a serious study of months or years.

Mr. Charles Currier Beale then commanded the quiet attention of the audience while he told them how the patient priest of a little German village had studied the difficulties and the possibilities of human speech for some thirty years, and then, out of the chaos of much information and from the labyrinth of much disorder, had been led by a divine illumination to so formulate his thoughts and knowledge as to present all at once a language system which in construction, pronunciation and word-formation could be practicable to all mankind. He traced the history of Volapuk from its presentation and rejection with ridicule down to its acceptance by a few learned men, under whose aegis it found favor in every civilized portion of the globe, until now, as its literature shows, it is an accepted factor, on the language side, in the bringing of all mankind into brotherly relations.

It will not answer to shower ridicule upon Volapuk. As its friends earnestly affirm, it is not, and never was, intended to *supplant*, but only to supplement other languages, and with such a purpose it has its province, and the proceedings of the convention now terminated go to show that it will continue its work to a sublime fruition.

CHAUTAUQUA, New York, August 8th, 1891.

THE COUNTY COLLECTORSHIP.

For some time past the members of the County Court have had under their consideration the question of the county collectorship, the point at issue now being whether until June next L. G. Harby, the present collector, shall retain that office, or whether A. L. Williams, the collector-elect, shall start in upon his duties before that time. It seems the law upon the matter is, in