

age that Victoria was when crowned. Great preparations are being made for the 6th of next month, although the princess attains the requisite regal age—eighteen years—on the 31st of this month.

Wilhelmina is spoken of as a very capable young woman, with a mind of her own. She is fair-haired, well-appearing, womanly and gentle in her manner and possessing already many of the elements of popularity. A short time ago the royal match-makers endeavored to bring about an engagement between her and her cousin, Prince Bernhard, of Saxe-Weimar, but she soon gave them to understand that that was a matter in which she was somewhat concerned and would exercise her own preferences regarding it. She declared that under no circumstances would she marry her cousin because he was "not handsome" and "not sensible." In addition to this, she may be attended to some extent by that (alleged) female weakness of counting up the prospective gain in a transaction which in such cases is more business-like than heartfelt, and the showing was not satisfactory. The prince could by no means advance her titular dignity, as on her succession to the throne she will be as high as she can get in that line. Notwithstanding her apparent waywardness and independence of action, she is known to be approachable and affable to a degree.

The new queen will not only be invested with a great title but with a wealth of costly jewels and other trappings indicative of lavish expenditure. It is stated that among the collection will be some of the finest gems in the world. Of course, these are and will remain the property of the state, but they will be in her possession to be used at such times and manner as she sees fit, and what more could she do if they were her personal belongings?

Wilhelmina is now with her mother at The Hague, where her birthday will be quietly celebrated. On the 5th they will proceed to Amsterdam, where next day she will be ushered to the throne and proclaimed queen of the realm with great formality. The following is the oath of office which she will take:

"I swear to the Dutch people that I will observe and always maintain the constitution. I swear that I will defend and guard with all my power the independence and the territory of the empire, that I will protect public and private liberty and the rights of all my subjects, and that I will use every means confided to me by the law to foster and uphold the national and individual well-being, as a good queen should do. And may God help me."

It is said of her that she has received all the training that an ordinary Dutch housewife should have. In her more youthful days she had a little house properly equipped, in which she acquired and discharged all the functions of a housekeeper. Notwithstanding all this, which may be a very handy thing to have in possession some time and can scarcely ever be detrimental, she is reported to have made a vow not to put it to its fullest use under any circumstances—she will not have a husband at all. "I will never marry," she is reported to have said; "I will reign alone like Elizabeth of England." As Wilhelmina is very young, she has ample time to get over all that. Let us hope she will.

CAPTAIN J. W. YOUNG.

For some time past statements have been made in the daily papers concerning the alleged "serious condition of things" in the Utah troop of rough riders under Col. Torrey, all on account of dissatisfaction—it is said—with Cap-

tain J. Wash Young. The readers of the "News" will be pleased to learn from a letter from Major J. G. Harbord, published in the Tribune and reproduced in the "News," that the attacks made on the captain are by superior officers considered unjustifiable. Captain Young, the major says, is regarded as an officer whose efficiency grows day by day and who tries hard to do his duty and do it as well as any one in the regiment to which he belongs. If the rumors previously circulated have caused doubts as to the standing of the captain, these should be removed by the communication from the major. It is a matter in which the general public is interested to a large extent, for no right-minded Utah citizen can entertain any other desire with regard to the patriotic fellow-citizens that have gone to the front in a time of danger, than to hear the very best reports of them both as to moral conduct and efficiency in the performance of their military duties. Utah's ambition naturally is to see her sons in the front ranks.

Private letters from the camp corroborate the statements by Major Harbord regarding Captain Young. They represent him as working conscientiously and industriously and with much success. It is admitted that he has opposition, but the latter is not of a serious nature. It will be understood by considering the facts. In a telegram concerning the matter it was stated that four non-commissioned officers and ten enlisted men had filed application for transfer from the troop, and the cause assigned by the applicants—so the dispatch alleges—was "general dissatisfaction with the captivity of J. Wash Young."

To this Major Harbord replies:

"I saw each of the applications referred to, and not one of them contained any reason as alleged."

The reader will from this be able to judge for himself.

DEAD TO THE WORLD.

Thirteen months ago three men—Andree, Franckel and Strindberg—left the island of Spitzbergen, some distance off the northern coast of Norway, in a balloon headed for the northern end of the earth's axis. They had previously prepared for the journey at Tromsø, a northerly Norwegian town and embarked thence to the point of actual starting. The balloon was a strong, commodious one, well equipped in all respects and having some ingenious devices looking to the welfare and comfort of its occupants, it being made as convenient in all respects as was possible within so narrow a compass. Food was taken along sufficient to last the party four months, in addition to which they had improved fire-arms, fishing apparatus, etc., by means of which it was expected to reinforce their stock of provisions indefinitely. All being in readiness Andree swung lightly into the basket, calling out to the others as he did so to get on board, which they immediately did, when the ropes were cut and the aerial craft mounted majestically aloft and swept along toward the point of destination. The shouts returned by the men to the cheers of the populace became fainter and fainter, and finally were lost upon the intervening space, while the balloon grew dimmer and more obscure until it became a mere speck upon the horizon and was then blotted out—forever, as it now appears.

No word, no sign has ever come from the daring explorers since that day. They took carrier pigeons and many claims have been made to having re-

ceived missives by such means, but none of them has been authenticated. An exhausted pigeon was captured in this vicinity recently, with a silver ring marked with the letter "A" attached to it; but it is quite improbable if not impossible that any bird could have made such a flight as would be one from the Polar regions to Utah. At least one expedition has gone in search and scientific circles have given the matter their most serious consideration in the hope of discovering some means by which the men or their bodies could be recovered, or at least ascertaining the means by which they met destruction, but all apparently to no purpose, and after so long a time it is quite unreasonable to suppose that they or either of them will ever be seen again alive or dead.

What an insatiable Moloch the North Pole is! Like the siren of the sea it is ever luring the infatuated pursuer on to his ruin. There seems to be something irresistibly fascinating to the inquiring, philosophical, determined, adventurous mind in the very dreariness of the regions of eternal ice, while the rigors and hardships, the perils, pains and discomforts, the trackless, limitless wastes and impassable barriers of frozen crystal all give forth their mute warnings in vain. There is a place beyond all these discouragements known to science as the one where all the lines of longitude converge in a common point, to attain which and move one step in any direction is to go south, where the needle of the compass would point downward and where the flickering rays of far-distant Polaris descend almost vertically—and to this point all energies are directed, all this side of it is ignored—until encountered.

To the long roll of victims who went in quest of this Ultima Thule the names of Andree, Franckel and Strindberg may now be added. Commencing in 1603 by Stephen Bennett, the expeditions in quest of the pole have continued irregularly down to the present day, a period within which the names of Hudson, Phipps, Cook, Franklin, Kane, Melville, DeLong, Nansen, Peary and many more figure conspicuously. Some of these and a thousand more unnamed never returned. What has the world gained in lieu of all these sacrifices? Some have penetrated nearer the long sought-for region than others, but not one has ever seen it and returned with the information acquired; indeed, it is highly questionable whether any at all has ever been permitted to rest his natural eyes upon the prohibited zone. Perhaps none ever may; but so long as it remains in its present position and retains its existing conditions it will be sought for, suffered for and died for—it is apparently so natural for man to yearn for the unattainable.

AS TO KISSING.

In a public assemblage the other day, in New York, a young lady approached Lieutenant Hobson and requested him to kiss her. Of course the language was not so direct as that, but it was direct enough for him to understand and he unhesitatingly complied. Very few men but what would have done so, no doubt, so the hero of the Merrimac incident drops out of the discussion and the girl becomes the subject of animadversion.

Not a few condemn the proceeding unstintedly as being unwomanly and even outrageous; others are more moderate in their strictures, and a very few can—or say they can—see nothing greatly out of the way in it at all. Among the latter is the noted poetess, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, whose breadth