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ANOTHER WAR CLOUD.

Once more Europe trembles, as the god of war rolls his thundering chariot across the political firmament. This time Italy and France have a matter to settle. A few days ago French laborers became indignant at the way in which discrimination was made against them in favor of Italian workingmen in certain localities. Enraged, the Frenchmen armed themselves and drove their competitors away. Blood was shed. Fifty Italians were mercilessly murdered, and one hundred and fifty came out of the affray with more or less serious wounds.

Here was an affair compared to which the New Orleans lynching fades into insignificance. The Italians are indignant. People are marching in the streets of the capital and shouting for revenge. The newspapers join in demanding reparation. The French embassy is threatened. Everything considered, the situation is grave.

If the emperor of Germany, as has been supposed, would like to see the war dogs let loose, here is his chance. Should Italy not get satisfactory reparation, a few words of encouragement, a secret promise of help, might suffice to cause the Italians to commit some rash act, for which speedy punishment would follow. Then it would be the duty of Germany and Austria to protect Italy, the three countries being parties to the triple alliance.

It is not probable, however, that the riots spoken of will be followed by a general war. William is not likely to give his encouragement to the affair, at present. The Italian government, after having spoken loudly enough to maintain its dignity in the estimation of its clamorous subjects, will be glad to accept whatever reparation France is willing to give. At least this would seem to be for the best interest of all parties concerned.

THE G. A. R.'S FUTURE.

More than usual interest attaches to the approaching annual meeting of the Grand Army of the Republic at Indianapolis. Indeed, it is expected in some respects to mark a climax in the history of the organization, notably in regard to numbers; for a proposition is being considered and will doubtless be brought forward, to fix the year 1895 as the date after which no applications for membership in the Grand Army will be received, and when its books shall be closed. One authority points out that while last year the ostensible gain in membership was only about 1200, it was afterwards discovered that this apparent gain was made by the addition of some 3000 names to the roll without authority; so that there was really a loss instead of gain. And while it is held that there are still thousands of veterans who have never yet joined the organization, in spite of the efforts made to increase the membership, the gains for the next few years are likely to fall below the losses which will result from death. In reply to the objection against closing up the rolls while half a million men, more or less, who served during the war have not joined the order, it is urged that after nearly thirty years of opportunity, these veterans do not intend to do so, as a rule, and that the two years more gives time enough for any who do mean to join. Another and a contrary argument is that the majority of those men will hurry and get into the ark before the doors are closed, and some even predict that such action would increase the Grand Army fifty per cent in less than a year. The general opinion seems to be, however, that the Grand Army will henceforth dwindle in numbers. But this, instead of diminishing, will probably have the effect of increasing the enthusiasm and spirit of comradeship among the members, and the popular respect and esteem in which the order is held. It has had some blatant and irresponsible leaders and spokesmen during its long and honorable existence—demagogues who for their own or their particular party's ends have sought to throw the vast weight and influence of partisan dictation; but its members ought not to be, and are not, held accused for anything of this kind; and as a whole it remains, as it will until the last name is blotted out, warmly fixed in the hearts of the nation as a roll of honor.

A STUPENDOUS TUMBLE.

The Springfield *Republican*, discussing the recent fate of the Northern Pacific railroad, and doubtless influenced somewhat by the stockholders' interests, makes a very just criticism upon the methods which have brought that mighty property to its present straits. Certainly the result of a long series of questionable operations shows that, as in the case of some other roads that might be mentioned, the managers have learned how to make fortunes out of such properties while the owners, or security-holders, grow poor. Under a conservative management the N. P. could have been put long ago upon a permanent paying basis. It runs through a section abounding in natural wealth and rapidly being settled. Frederick Billings started the property on the way of growing solvency and prosperity, and had his course been pursued by his successors the road would be in another position today. But from the time the Oregon Navigation interests got control through the famous "blind pool," and drove the golden spike with such a hurrah in 1883, the purpose of the management seems to have been to load it up with enough non-paying acquisitions and enormous debts to keep it perpetually on the edge of the precipice it has now for the third time fallen over. No romance connected with American railroads or financiering exceeds in interest the story of this road and its great and moving spirit, Henry Villard. But the truth has to come out at last. Reckless and extravagant management and not "hard times" are at fault this time.

FRANKLIN THE WIZARD.

A dispatch from Washington announces the arrival at the department of state, from B. F. Stevens of the United States dispatch agency at London, of an account of historical electrical apparatus once owned by Franklin, which has been recently unearthed in that city. Among other things, Mr. Stevens says, he has found that Franklin during his last sojourn in England made an electric light, and that he could produce from it with his primitive appliances sufficient electric light to read by. This antedates the achievement of Edison by more than 100 years.

The lamp is in a good state of preservation and has recently been tested by the owner, a gentleman residing near London, who finds that it works as satisfactorily now as when Franklin himself experimented with it. It is a curiosity of great value and importance in illustrating the history of electric lighting. It is by no means the arc light or the incandescent lamp of modern times. Its principle, however, is that of the arc light without carbon points, the device—which was invented by Sir Humphry Davy in 1813—first demonstrating the practicability of electric lighting. The total length of the cylinder, within which the light is produced, is about twelve inches and the diameter three inches. Each end is provided with attachments for connecting it with the positive and negative poles of the machine, which, it should be remembered, was the only means of generating electricity with which men were then familiar.

The electric light in this rude but ingenious device was produced by the leaping of the intercepted current from the ball to the metallic point. The ends of the tubes are partly closed, undoubtedly for the same reason that the globes of the arc light are closed at present, and the light given off is brilliant and steady. The machine with which Franklin generated the electricity for this novel experiment is turned by a crank, grind-stone like, and was the most powerful and complete in construction of any electrical machine of that day. This crank turns a ponderous cylinder of glass, which is rubbed by brushes with silk covers. These brushes convey the electricity collected from the cylinder to the positive and negative conductors, supported on large glass pillars, where it can be used for purposes of experiment.

A POET AND THE LADIES.

Bjornstjerne Bjornson, the Norwegian poet, novelist and popular agitator, is pretty well known on the other side of the Atlantic. In the winter of 1880-81 he spent a few months in this country studying American conditions, political, social and otherwise. Upon his return to the old home the impression became pretty general that he was disappointed. His friends said he did not find this Republic the pattern for a commonwealth which he had expected. Others intimated that his chagrin was mostly due to the fact that his presence in our country did not occasion such demonstrations as he thought himself entitled to. Be this as it may, while in this country he certainly gave expression to sentiments which have a strong savor of spite.

To quote one instance: In January, 1881, Bjornson came to New York. In a conversation with Hjalmar Boyesen the question of New York ladies came up and Bjornson insisted that the average personal beauty is higher in that city than in Rome, for instance. This gave Bjornson the key note to the following harangue:

Beautiful! Well, now, what constitutes beauty? They have soft skin, well-cared-for features, good clothes. But the soul, the soul, my boy, that goes out of this transparent covering is vain, flimsy, self-conscious, and filled with a thousand petty trivialities. Mere regularity of features counts for little with me, if there is no nobility of soul that shimmers through. The American women I have met have, with few exceptions, been of this type. They demand much of life, but they have no idea that life has something to demand of them. They are clever, with a sort of flimsy, superficial cleverness, and they know how to assert themselves, and get the most out of their husbands and fathers. But they have been woefully spoiled. They never can get away from their own dear, little, pretty selves; they cannot lose themselves in a great thought, a great idea, and learn the blessedness of living for something better than vanity and flirtation and social tittle-tattle.—*Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen in the Cosmopolitan.*

There is no need for us to rise up in defense of American women. In every respect they compare favorably with the better half of any nation on the earth, and this fact is so universally recognized that a few unfavorable remarks by an enthusiast do not count for much. But in connection with this criticism of American womanhood it is interesting to recall a story that is widely circulated in Norway and which concerns Bjornson's views somewhat. It is said that the poet, years ago, when thinking of entering the sacred state of matrimony, hesitated between two young ladies. One was beautiful, the envied possessor of a soft skin, regular features etc., but without that "soul," of which he speaks in the sentence quoted above. The other was comparatively homely but endowed with a bright intellect that sparkled through her otherwise not remarkable eyes. For some time he considered the important question as to which one to offer his love-sick heart. Finally, he made up his mind—so the story goes—with this remark, prosaic enough for a poet: "I guess I will take the flesh; I have got spirit enough myself."

JUSTICE TO THE RAILWAYS.

Because there are some railway companies that are disposed to be arrogant, aggressive and grasping at times, is no reason why railroads in general should not always have fair treatment at the hands of the public. Some of the younger cities and more sparsely settled counties do not, however, always observe this line of conduct and seem to regard a railway corporation or the railway itself as a goose to be plucked whenever the fancy takes them that way. A case is now on in a Colorado court in which the Union Pacific, Denver & Gulf Railway company have applied for an injunction to restrain the city government of Pueblo from further interfering with its property, and particularly with the bridge over the Fountain river, which was set on fire by order of the city council some days ago. At first, as we are advised, the court hesitated to act on account of belief that the offense was beyond its jurisdiction, but after argument on behalf of the railway company, the order was granted.

It seems that the bridge, which is very necessary for the company's business, was built fifteen years ago. It has been declared a nuisance by the city council and set on fire, causing damage amounting to $2000, and now the city officials threaten that the company will not be allowed to make repairs. It is further asserted that a project was on foot by which the city of Pueblo expected to throw the creek into an entirely new bed, altogether on the company's land, which would entail a loss of over $10,000. An injunction restraining the city pending a hearing was properly granted. There are many better ways of getting satisfaction and compelling a road to do its duty by the public than by resorting to violence and destroying its property.

THE FOLLOWING sage advice, upon a subject that ought to be of interest to all young men and women, is applicable to both sexes and to most all ages. It is given by the *People's Journal*. The NEWS approves and commends every word of it, and thinks it cannot do better than to publish it entire:

It is through flirtation, which has advanced to something like a fine art, that many marriageable young folks lose their chances in life. Flirtation destroys confidence between the persons who indulge in it; it prevents the natural growth of mutual esteem; it is not a thing of good faith. It is an error to suppose that lovemaking and flirtation are identical; they are, in truth, antithetical. Lovemaking is tender and ennobling, while flirtation is cruel, foolish and demeaning. The one is the prelude to wedded happiness, the other is inimical to it. Young men and women should exercise their reason, while on the look-out for suitable life partners, and many of them give encouragement to flirters, silly flirters, who are casting off or thrown off, with results that are often grievous indeed.

CHINA WILL wait patiently. Viceroy Li Hung Chang has just notified the President of the United States that his government does not intend to institute any retaliatory measures "at present," on account of the Geary law. It clings to the hope that Congress will adopt friendlier measures in the not distant future. It is only to be hoped that these assurances of peace are not made for the sake of covering up any intended wholesale massacre of foreigners in China. The recent murder of two missionaries in the interior and the efforts of the authorities to efface the traces of the atrocities are not calculated to inspire confidence in promises of a friendly nature made in that quarter of the globe.

SECRETARY CARLISLE quotes figures to show that it would cost the country $112,000,000 to adopt free coinage of silver at a changed ratio. In the same total are included many million dollars' worth of new building, cost of transportation, etc. Now, for somebody to give in figures how much the profit would amount to? Perhaps the outlay would be a good investment.

ONCE MORE the scared depositor: A Jersey City woman drew all her money, amounting to $400, from the savings bank, put it in a mattress on her bed; the house took fire, she forgot all about her money, it burned up, and now she is penniless. More savings banks for depositors than money than [illegible].

THE WASHINGTON *Post* flippantly suggests that "the Chicago platform may be found to bring action against the Democratic party for breach of promise."

TWICE THE working population of the earth, or [illegible] a billion men, could not accomplish the work done by the world's locomotives.

A WONDERFULLY fine feature of the Ohio gubernatorial campaign is that each of the candidates speaks of the other as "a perfect gentleman."

THE CHAPLAINS of both houses of Congress are Methodists.

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The portrait department of the Art Bazar will be closed until Aug. 21st, when Mr. R. G. Savage will resume his labors with the camera, more than ever determined to do first class work. Wait until then and come and get your *party taken*. C. R. Savage, 12 and 14 Main St.

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