

Typhoid fever is raging epidemically in Kabelvaag. Many cases of death have occurred.

The Scandinavian Express has begun business in New York with a view of establishing a cheaper and speedier communication between the United States and Scandinavia.

#### DENMARK.

Diphtheria is raging epidemically in Laeborg-county.

Skanderborg Bank was organized recently with a cash capital of 7000 kroner.

Their silver wedding was celebrated lately by Joergen Bensen, a real estate man, and his wife, of Glosbruge.

A new and free harbor will probably be constructed in Copenhagen; it is erected to give a great impetus to shipping and trade generally.

A technical school will be built in Slagelse some time in the near future. The cost is estimated at 65,000 kroner.

Maren Kristine Jensen, a widow of Haarlev, who murdered her daughter some time ago, has been sentenced to eight years imprisonment in the penitentiary.

A new law has just been passed which will insure a free maintenance to all poor people aged over sixty years. The State will grant two million kroner a year for the purpose.

The confirmation of the Princess Louise has taken place in Copenhagen with great ecclesiastical ceremonies. The princess is sixteen years old, and the event was made the occasion for great display of court and functionaries. When Rev. Paulli in parting spoke of the dangerous possibilities that loomed in the future the princess was visibly overcome. Poor little princess! Ominous signs prevail. Prince Humbert already felt that there was "something rotten in the State of Denmark."

In Norway 10,000 poor receive public aid either for themselves or their families. The chief cause is sickness.

Emperor William is expected also this year to visit Norway and the North Cape. After his proposed visit to England he will proceed from Scotland direct to Norway.

The Norwegian ship *Nicoline* came recently off Cuxhaven in collision with the English steamer *Recepta*. The *Nicoline* went to the bottom. Her crew was saved.

Harold Hagen, the champion skater, has been challenged by an American rival to run a race of three miles, for a purse of \$5000, in the United States next winter. The offer also includes all traveling expenses as a further inducement.

Johan Svendsen, the great Norwegian composer, has been offered a salary of 20,000 kroner, if he will be the director of the musical society of New York. But as he gets 7000 kroner in Copenhagen, and it is a great difference in the worth of money in America and in Europe, he thinks he is just as well off where he is.

A newspaper published in English will soon be issued in Christiania. We hope it will somewhat open the eyes of

the London press, which is generally lamentably ignorant of Scandinavian matters, although comparative near neighbors. The American press is far ahead of the English in this as in many other press matters.

The Russian newspaper *Moskovskaja Vedomosti* has the following to say in regard to the new Norwegian cabinet: "Most of the members of the new cabinet are radical and determined adversaries to the union between Sweden and Norway, also to King Oscar's friendly relations to Germany. Steen, the secretary of State, is in favor of an alliance with Russia and France."

#### THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH

This date is suggestive of many particulars in the history of our country, over which the patriotic student might dwell with profit for a moment or two. It was on this day, 1789, that George Washington was inaugurated President of the United States. The ceremony took place in New York City. Both Houses of Congress were in attendance. A statue of Washington now marks the spot on Broadway where the grand event occurred. Every article of apparel worn by the "Father of his Country" on that day was of American manufacture. So were those worn by John Adams, the Vice-President. It requires no stretch of fancy on our part to place ourselves in communion with those who hailed with joyous shouts the First President of the Republic. After the oath was administered, and after the Bible was reverently kissed, Chancellor Livingstone proclaimed in loud tones "Long live George Washington, President of the United States." Though 102 years have passed since this glorious event, yet we can echo the shout today, and as fervently repeat the prayerful wish.

This day is also commemorative of another incident in our early history worthy of more than passing notice. It was on April 30, 1803, that Louisiana was ceded to the United States by Napoleon the First of France. The sum paid for it was \$15,000,000. The territory in question now comprises three wealthy and prosperous commonwealths. They are Louisiana, Missouri and Arkansas, three States admitted to the Union respectively in 1812, 1821 and 1836. At the time of this purchase Thomas Jefferson was President, and Napoleon was at the power of his zenith and glory.

In dwelling on these historic scenes of our early nationhood, we cannot help turning to events of a similar character, transpiring in another hemisphere, at the present time. Reference is had here to Australia. Most readers are aware that during the month of April, a convention was held at Sydney, for the purpose of establishing a federation of the British colonies in the South Pacific ocean. Contrast the situation there today, with that of Philadelphia in 1776. Then at the word federation, the English mind was aroused, and the rifle, the sword and the cannon called into requisition. Seven years of war, of sacrifice, of heroic endurance established the United States of America.

In our time England has grown wiser. At the sound of federation in

the Pacific, neither sword nor rifle was invoked. The operations now in progress for the perfection and establishment of the United States of Australia are being conducted in a manner that will do honor and credit to the English speaking races. They will also be productive of mutual benefits to parent and child.

What is called Australia proper now comprises five separate colonies. The largest in extent is Western Australia. Its area is over 1,000,000 square miles, but its population is only about 50,000. Its capital city, Perth, has a population of perhaps 10,000.

The second in extent is South Australia, with an area of 903,690 square miles and a population of 320,000. Its capital city, Adelaide, has a population of about 115,000.

The next in extent is Queensland, with an area of 668,497 square miles, and a population of 400,000. Its capital city is Brisbane, with a population of 60,000.

The most populous of the new States is New South Wales. It has an area of 325,000 square miles, and a population of 1,200,000. Sydney, its capital city, has a population of 360,000. In wealth and in population Victoria comes next. It has an area of only 87,884 square miles and a population of over 1,000,000. Its capital city, Melbourne, has a population of 425,000.

New Zealand and Tasmania can enter into the "Australian Commonwealth" if they so desire. In fact, provision is made for the admission of new States, and for the division of old ones. In extent of territory the new federation in Australia will be equal to that of the United States without Alaska. The estimated population at present is about 4,000,000. The debt is large, almost as much as that of the United States. There are about 10,000 miles of railroad in Australia, most of which, if not all, is owned by the government. The debt was incurred in helping to develop the railroad system. But the authorities had wisdom enough to retain control of the roads for the benefit of the people, rather than turn them over to sharpers. And the roads are managed and operated at present by a Government Board.

The history of the federation scheme is brief. In 1853 William C. Wentworth advocated a federation of the colonies. Henry Parkes opposed it. The question after a little discussion was dropped. For thirty years it slumbered. In 1883 it was again revived, and strange to say, Henry Parkes, now Sir Henry, turned up as leader of the pro-federation scheme. A convention of delegates from the colonies was held in Sydney in this year. It outlined a plan of union so imperfect that it was not seriously considered by the people. What is known as the Federal Council of Australia was established by the British Parliament three years later, (1886). The council was to be composed of two members from each self-governing colony, and one from each Crown colony. This council had no authority in any colony unless the colony gave it special sanction. New South Wales, South Australia and New Zealand would have nothing to do with it, and the council became innocuously desuend. In 1886, and again in 1888 and 1889, efforts were made to