

Late Foreign News

VELOCIPEDES IN THE RUSSIAN ARMY.

Smothered in Mud.

SEVERE FLOODS IN GERMANY.

A Band of Boy Burglars.

Velocipedes having been introduced in the regular service of the Russian army, as reported, an official name of Slavonic origin has been devised for them. The new name is samoskaty, "self roller."

An unusually large number of bears is noticed this summer in the neighborhood of St. Petersburg. This, according to the experience of old peasants, prognosticates the coming of a severe winter.

The Russian language is to be taught in Japanese schools. For this purpose the Government of the Mikado sends a number of students to the University of St. Petersburg to prepare themselves as teachers of Russian for the rising generation of Japan.

The Municipal Board of St. Petersburg has under advisement a project to place appliances for "rational gymnastics" in the parks and public squares of the city for the benefit of those whose means do not allow them to get physical exercise in rural places in the summer season.

Two boys quarreled over their play on the ramparts on the east shore of the Copenhagen, and the larger one chased his smaller playmate, a lad of 8, down the grassy slope and sent him sprawling into the moat, with a push. Then he ran away. The little one was found smothered in the mud hours after.

According to private advices from Russia the report circulated by English newspapers that no cameras may be taken into the Czar's country by tourists is false. There are innumerable kodaks in the hands of Americans in the streets of St. Petersburg and Moscow every day. No cameras have been seized, and no amateur photographers have been interfered with.

The wife of a Swedish railroad superintendent, described as a magnificent but spoiled beauty, recently blew out her brains with a pistol. Her cause for suicide she set down thus briefly in a letter to her husband before she shot herself: "I follow my canary bird. Good-bye!" Her bird had flown away a couple of days before.

Experiments have been made to ascertain whether dogs could not be made to do valuable service in time of war. They were at one time trained to bite the legs of the enemy's horses, and were of great value. It is now found that the only dogs likely to be useful are shepherds' dogs. The hunter leaves his post too often and cannot be trained to obey as well as can the sheep dog.

The condition of the peasants of the Spree forest districts is becoming very alarming. They are suffering from the greatest inundation that has been experienced in those districts since 1854, and they are in danger of dying from starvation, as they are cut off from communication with the rest of the country. They have only the water of the Spree to drink, and that is polluted.

Work on the Trans-Caucasian railroad is progressing satisfactorily. The contingent of laborers consists of 2,500 soldiers, 900 convicts at hard labor, 300 Siberian exiles, 400 freemen, and 1,700 Chinamen and Koreans. Besides this 125 Russians and 300 Chinamen are employed in the stone works. This army of laborers does not include the higher officials, such as engineers, architects, inspectors, &c.

The exportation business in Odessa is at a frequent standstill. The owners of foreign freight vessels offer to carry goods to England at 10 shillings per ton, but no exporter will contract with them even for this cheap price for any length of time. In consequence of this a scarcity of coal is expected for the coming winter, because the vessels which carry Russian grain and produce to England come back to Odessa with coal.

It has often been observed frequently how persons of weak intellect display considerable talent for music. A German doctor has been making a systematic investigation of this matter, and he now publishes the results which may astonish many. Among 180 idiot children he has found the great majority to possess considerable musical powers, and some of them to be really highly endowed musically.

A young gunsmith in Drammen, Norway, called upon his sweetheart on his return from a gunning expedition to show her what he had shot. While showing her the loaded gun in the doorway he carelessly raised the hammer and let it fall. The gun went off, the girl fell dead, shot through the heart. The police found her lover crouching by the body, a shrieking, raving maniac.

The *Wormser Zeitung* draws attention to a literary curiosity of some value which has lately been discovered in the library of Herr Moses Mannheimer. It consists of the Pentateuch with commentaries, Rash and Nachmanides, and came out of the celebrated Bromberg collection in Venice (1571). It was the first printed book which issued from the "Bromberg Press," and is one of the oldest Hebrew books extant.

The Russian Government is about to build a new railroad, destined to unite the Trans-Caspian road with the town of Sarakh, on the Russo-Turkish frontier. The new line, which will be 216 miles long, will be very important for military operations, as it will make the distance between Russia in Europe and Herat comparatively a short one. The railroad is also intended as a means of facilitating the exportation to Persia of Russo-Asiatic products, especially of cotton.

Two news-dealers, the keepers of a restaurant, and two waiters at the same establishment, were arrested at Dresden on Monday for selling and for allowing to be placed before customers respectively the *New York Post*, containing an alleged libel upon the Emperor William. The culprits were escorted by gendarmes through the public streets to the police station, where they were treated with much severity, being interrogated by a magistrate for close upon five hours.

A noted Hungarian brigand, named Holvath, alias Bakonya, has been arrested near Agram. This miscreant is believed to

have committed more than twenty murders, his latest exploit being the killing of two gendarmes. There is too much reason to fear, however, that he must have had accomplices among the gendarmes, for he has ten times escaped from custody. This time the popular outcry against him is so loud that his captors will probably not let him go.

A rich old lady has just died at Lyons. In her will she left the contents of her bureau to her doctor as a reward for the care he had taken of her, to which she attributed her long life. The doctor began to rejoice. He thought that he could now enjoy himself for the rest of his days and do no work. When the bureau was opened he changed his mind. There was nothing in it except the various pills and drugs he had prescribed for her, and which she had carefully hoarded up instead of taking them.

There has just been discovered near Nogent-sur-Marne a band of boy robbers who plundered untenanted villas, and his their booty in a cave like Ali Baba, and his Forty Thieves. The chief of the burglarious confederation is a youth of 14 named Vincent Legrand. He was captured in a field, and gave information about his companions, who were arrested by the gendarmes as they were preparing to enter their cave. Two of the precocious rascals were only 11. They lately had entered a villa, and had abstracted therefrom a heap of provisions and a large quantity of wine and liquors.

An act of bravery in the Italian Alpine corps is reported. A few days ago the 43d Alpine Company were returning from Brenil to the Little St Bernard, when Lieutenant Clivio fell into a crevasse. He was able to hold on to the edge till his companions came to his assistance. Not long after one of the soldiers disappeared. Lieutenant Frieri immediately offered to be let down tied to a rope. After doing so he found that the snow which had fallen on to the soldier was so thick that he could not alone remove it. He called for help, and many volunteered to be let down. Sergeant Nieyhet was chosen, and was lowered into the crevasse, which was 80ft deep, and most dangerous, because below it there was another abyss. After working for an hour, all three were pulled up, saved.

Speculating as to the probable cost of the recent railway accident at St. Mandé, a Paris correspondent says:—The Charenton collision in September, 1881, which in some respects resembled that of last Sunday, cost the Paris and Lyons Railway nearly £30,000. This does not include some small life annuities paid to survivors who were dependent upon the victims. The Western Company paid over £90,000 compensation for the Clichy Levallois disaster. The much abused P. L. M. Company is generous, and makes a point of never going to law. So far the Eastern Railway has had scarcely any damages to pay. The Western stands highest in this respect. When the memorable accident occurred between Mont Parnasse and Versailles in 1842, by which 82 people lost their lives and a great many were injured, the Ouest belonging to an English company, the compensation given on that occasion amounted to over £125,000.

Affairs in Chili.

Recent despatches from Chili seem to indicate that the parties to the existing civil strife have reached a stage where neither is able to carry the war into its enemy's camp with a prospect of any prompt or decisive triumph. They appear to have practically come to a deadlock, so that unless one or other party shall obtain help from without, or shall willingly surrender to its rival, the end of the conflict must yet be remote. Already the Chilians have disappointed many in that they have kept up the strife until now. The event is so different from the revolutions that have hitherto taken place in Southern and Central America, that few were willing to believe that the pending struggle would have been so long protracted. This difference suggests that the conditions of the present strife must be peculiar. And this is indeed true. In the first place, the Chilians are more enlightened and civilized, have clearer views of constitutional liberty, and enjoy greater civil and religious freedom than the people of other South American countries. The constitution under which they have lived for now more than half a century contains many of the best features that are to be found in the best documents of the kind that exist to-day. It is therefore not reasonable to suppose that those who had been trained from infancy under such influences, and who appreciated their privileges and loved their country, would tamely submit to the dictation of a man who set at naught all the honorable traditions and practices of his predecessors, and violated the most fundamental and sacred provisions of the Constitution which he was sworn to uphold and defend. And this, if we may believe the representations of persons in a position to know, is what President Balmaceda has done. First in the series of grave offences was his dismissal of the cabinet, whose appointment had been approved by the people, and his choosing a cabinet from among his own creatures. Then follow the dissolution of Congress and the assumption of dictatorial power, in the exercise of which this self-constituted and irresponsible ruler has violated every principle and provision of the Constitution under which he first received his authority to rule. Thus, he has driven from him all the leading citizens of the republic who have rallied to the side of the Congress, which he illegally dissolved and which by virtue of its appointment still holds the charge confided to it by the electors. As at present divided the Congressional party holds the northern part of the republic, comprising the four richest provinces, constituting one-half of the territory, and yielding two-thirds of the yearly revenue. It has a regularly established government, a well disciplined army, and a navy that is vastly superior to that of the Dictator. On the other hand the Presidential party which controls the southern half of the republic, is in possession of the capital and of the national treasury which, fortunately or unfortunately, was well-filled when President Balmaceda took office. In this latter fact lies the Dictator's principal strength. He has more of the sinews of war at his command. Whether this advantage will be sufficient to turn the tide of victory in his favor, it is hard to say. Indeed the end is apparently too far off for any prophet who values his reputation to hazard a prediction. And more's the pity, since the unseemly strife is beyond question inflicting immense injury on foreign property, and bringing ruin upon a republic which but yesterday was one of the most flourishing on the southern continent.

A MAD WOLF.

Two Hours of Peril in a New Mexican House.

"My room was at the end of a long hall. I was familiar with every crook and turn about the house and didn't need a light, so I passed into my room and closed the door. It occurred to me then to take a smoke, so I felt around in the dark and found a cigar, and struck a match to light it. The next minute I think you could have knocked me down with a feather. Away down in the darkness under the bed two fiery eyes shown out like burning coals just for that brief moment the match was burning and then it went out. Before I had time to think the creature was upon me, and was springing at my throat, the most savage animal I had ever met. I felt rather than saw what it was. The creature was a wolf and it was mad," says a writer in the *St. Louis Globe Democrat*.

"Several animals afflicted with hydrophobia had been seen in a neighborhood during the past few months. There is no animal more formidable than a wolf when it has rabies, and I knew with what I had to contend. I had to struggle with a large wolf shut up in a dark room and that, when the slightest wound from its sharp teeth meant certain and horrible death to me. As it came to me first I threw out my hands, and by some good fortune happened to strike its neck. I got both my hands about its throat and managed to hold it away from my face, but it was all that I could do.

I was nervous, I suppose, and the wolf was far stronger than it would have been under ordinary circumstances. The froth was dripping from its mouth, and flew into my face as it struggled. It was the most desperate struggle of my life, just to hold that wolf and keep it from my face and throat, at which it constantly leaped in the most furious manner. All the time, from the moment it sprang at me first, I had been shouting and calling at the top of my voice. There was very little hope of doing any good with it, as the servants were too far away, and my room was on the opposite side of the house from their quarters; but that was the only chance.

It was evident that I couldn't let go my hold for an instant. It was just as evident that I couldn't hold out this way long, and, that unless help came after a while my strength would eventually give way, and the wolf could tear my throat, as it was struggling then to do. And how long do you think this kept up? For two hours. Two mortal hours by the clock. I stood there, fighting for my life with that savage wolf, and shouting for help every moment of the time. A hundred times I thought my strength was gone, and that my arms would surely sink down powerless the next moment, and yet I always managed to hold him off a little longer.

At last, just as I was almost in complete despair, one of the servants was aroused by my continued shouting, and came running with his gun in his hand. I managed to hold the wolf until he made a light, and then I held him while the man put the muzzle of his gun against the wolf's head and killed him as dead as Hector. And then I went to my sister's room and had a spell of something that would have been hysterics if I had been a woman. Being a man, it was nothing but a case of nervous prostration."

The Farmers' Alliance.

L. L. Polk, President of the Farmer's Alliance, in explaining recently the principles and aims, and also the reason for the existence of that young and vigorous organization, said: "The farmer's discontent arises not so much from limited latitude of success offered by the farm as from the impositions of legislation effected while he was devoting his whole attention to his immediate business and intrusting his interests as a citizen of the nation, to representatives who have betrayed that trust. The reckless practical disregard of pretty sentiment, and the almost general repudiation of promises and pledges made in favor of the farmer for many years, have instilled into him a notion that he must secure and maintain his 'fair field' by personal exertion, if he is to have it at all; and anything now presented spreading forth a new phase of duty or conveying a new variety of pledge or promise comes too late to influence him to step aside and longer trust his interests to others." It is the old story of betrayed confidence, of unfaithful stewardship, of servants taking advantage of the opportunity to enrich themselves at their masters' expense, of using delegated power as though it were absolute. But the Farmers' Alliance will not have existed in vain, if it serves but to accentuate more clearly the important truth contained in that pithy and inspired saying, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." The people that disregard this oft confirmed truth must sooner or later feel upon their necks the tyrant's heel. It is the duty of every citizen to closely scrutinize the character and deeds of persons in positions of authority and responsibility. To be indifferent is to be guilty of a crime against one's self, one's neighbors, and one's country.

A Pilgrim Father.

A tablet, commemorative of John Robinson, the pastor of the little band of "pilgrims" who in the early part of the seventeenth century fled for refuge to Holland, was recently unveiled in Leyden, the town in which the refugees mainly lived. Persons familiar with the history of those troublous times will know that Leyden was for years the refuge and residence of the Pilgrims who afterwards landed on Plymouth rock. They had left England, where their peculiarities of religious faith and practice had subjected them to annoyance and persecution; yet they found difficulty in making their escape to Holland, the authorities being willing neither to let them go in peace nor stay in comfort; but at last when safely landed on the Continent they founded a church at Leyden, and John Robinson became their minister. Even then their surroundings were not what they desired, and at length they made arrangements with the Plymouth Company, which held a charter from King James for colonizing America to try their fortunes in the New World. A picked body of the Leyden congregation in 1620 returned to Plymouth, and thence made the famous voyage across the ocean. But Leyden was the real starting point of their momentous enterprise, and the John Robinson tablet now aims at commemorative justice to the Leyden stage of their eventful history.

SPONGING IN THE BAHAMAS.

The Method of Gathering and Preparing for Market, and the Profits of the Work.

The vessels employed in the sponge trade are small, varying from five to twenty-five tons, sloop or schooner rigged, and are built in the local shipyards. The construction and repair of these vessels constitute an important industry in itself. They have small cabins for sleeping purposes. The cooking is done on deck. About 500 of these vessels are engaged in gathering sponges. The number of persons gathering sponges in the Bahamas, handling them and preparing them in various stages for markets, is from 5,000 to 6,000, all of whom, except the shipowners, brokers, and shippers, are black people. Hands employed in clipping, washing, packing, and preparing finally for shipments abroad get from 50 to 75 cents per day of ten hours. The amount earned by the men who go fishing depends entirely on the number of sponges obtained. The owner of the vessel fits out at his own expense, and the profits of the voyage are divided up in shares among the owner, the master, and the men. They are never hired by the month, nor do they ever get specified wages. The most that can be said is that the men make a tolerable living, and the sponge fisherman who earns over \$300 a year is the exception.

The method of gathering sponges is by means of iron hooks attached to long poles. By using a water glass the fisherman can readily discover the sponges at the bottom, and then by the pole and hook can bring up those he may select, leaving the smaller ones untouched. Some sponges adhere firmly to the bed of the sea, while others are not attached at all, those latter being known as "rollers." About ten years ago an attempt was made to introduce dredges, but it was found that their use was likely to ruin the beds, because in passing over the bottom they dislodged and brought up not only the good sponges, but the young and unsalable ones as well, killing the spawn and working great mischief. Such an outcry was raised against dredging that an act was passed forbidding it.

When brought to the vessel the sponges are at once spread upon the deck and left exposed to the sun for several days, during which time the animal matter that covers the sponge gradually dies. This is a black, gelatinous substance of a very low order of marine life, which, during the process of decay, emits a most objectionable odor. The vessels visit what is called the kraal once a week to land the load from the deck. The kraal is an enclosed pen, fenced in by sticks of wood so as to allow a free circulation of water through it, usually built in a sheltered and shallow bay or cove, on one of the caves near by. The sponges are placed in the kraal and left to be soaked and washed by the action of the water from four to six days, when they are taken out and beaten with sticks until the decayed covering is entirely removed. Having been subjected to this course of exposure, soaking, beating, and washing, the sponges are quite clean and are taken on board the vessel, packed in the hold, conveyed to Nassau, and in this condition are sold in the local market. Of the larger sponges a catch of 5,000, or of the smaller ones 7,500, would be considered a fair lot. Occasionally a cargo of from 12,000 to 15,000 large sponges has been brought in, but this success is exceptional.

The principal varieties gathered in the Bahamas are as follows: Boat, grass, glove, head, reef (white and dark), velvet (abaco and cay), sheep wool, and yellow, of which the most valuable is sheep wool. The total export in 1890 reached over 900,000 pounds, valued at \$305,896. The crop of that year was above the average, being really the most valuable one in many years. Of that crop there were shipped to the United States 708,000, valued at \$236,000. Bahama sponges are not considered very good, but a ready market is found for all that can be obtained, and at constantly improving prices. There are no indications of any failure of the supply.

The Natives of Turkestan.

Y. D. Yoozhakoff, a traveller who has spent several years in the Russian domains of central Asia, describes in the monthly *Russkij Vestnik* the natives of Turkestan in the following manner: "The two principal elements of population in Turkestan are the Garts and the Kirguese; the former are the settlers, the latter the nomads of the region. The relations between the two are very unfriendly on account of their various habits of life. The Kirguese are a warlike people, always on the move; the Garts are rather timid and perfectly pacific. The former are always cheerful, communicative, soulful, good natured, liberal, and hospitable, but extremely shifting, and unreliable. The Garts, on the other hand, are taciturn, cautious, shy of strangers, non-communicative, wily, and stingy. The Kirguese will tell lies simply out of light-mindedness, or on account of carelessness; they don't think when they tell a lie. But the Gart will cheat and deceive you with consciousness, and with a view of gaining some advantage by his falsehood. The Kirguese looks upon the Gart with disdain, as a knight looks upon a common laborer or peasant, and he hates the Gart as a usurer who lends him money at an enormous rate of interest and as a deceiver who sells him goods at an exorbitant price, and cheats him in weight and measure. Roaming about in the desert he considers as the most noble employment. He is always moving about cheerfully, carelessly, and without a serious thought on his mind. He will mount his horse and speed on for a long distance through the desert for no weightier purpose than hearing the latest news, or call on the Tameer (chief of his clan), or simply for a pastime. He can have no respect for the Gart who always keeps himself within his precincts and works steadily at his trade, in his garden, or in his field. He also hates the Garts because they are given to the vices which a steady and secluded life promotes. The Gart on the other hand, regards the Kirguese as a savage. He considers himself wiser, more serious, and better educated than his light-minded, roaming countrymen. More especially does he hate him because he is a Mohammedan only by profession, but never follows the customs and usages of his religion. The Kirguese is in his estimation nothing but a brigand who lives without toil or useful employment of any kind; it is therefore no sin to cheat him and take advantage of him whenever there is an opportunity for it."

There are a million and a half gipsies in Europe.

FOREIGN ARMY NOTES.

Saxony's cavalry has a new sword, three inches shorter and considerably lighter than the old one. The blade is straight and the handle is of hard rubber. The new weapon is more easily handled but less dangerous than the one hitherto used.

At Sophia experiments have been made in the last four weeks to ascertain the accuracy of the rapid-firing cannon recently received from the Gruson Works in Magdeburg. At a distance of 5,690 feet, a target representing two field cannon and ten men was almost completely demolished by twenty-five shots. A line of thirty wooden soldiers, lying six feet apart so that only the heads were in sight of the mackmen received twenty-six loads of chain shot and nine of shrapnell. Twenty of the chain shot and forty-one pieces of shrapnell struck fourteen wooden soldiers.

The launching of the armored battle ship *Sicilia* at Venice last month added another floating monster to Italy's navy. It is but eleven feet shorter than the *Sardegna*, launched last year in Spezia and said to be the biggest war ship in the world, and almost the exact counterpart of the *Re Umberto*, launched in Naples three years ago. The *Sicilia* carries an armor fourteen inches thick and has forty-eight great guns, besides numerous revolving cannon, mitrailleuse, &c. Like the *Sardegna* and the *Re Umberto*, its crew numbers 673, including 21 officers of the general staff. The speed of the new battle ship is eighteen knots. The *Sicilia* has cost more than \$5,000,000, has been building since 1885, and will not be fully equipped for action before the summer of 1894.

Several officers of the Australian army have taken the course in military aeronautics at the Victor Silberer Institute in Vienna this year. Numerous trips in all sorts of weather have been made in the two great air ships Budapest and Father Radetzky, yet not a single accident has happened. Several trips were 200 or 300 miles long, and six were made on very stormy days. In most of the ascensions the officers were able to follow pretty closely the direction already determined upon. Landings were made in high winds, and in swamps, rivers and forests, without the slightest injury even to the balloons. The course of instruction will close this month with a series of ascensions by night in captive balloons for the purpose of making observations by means of flash lights.

The programme for the German fall manoeuvres is complete. The Fourth Army Corps, consisting of the Seventh and Eighth Divisions, a division of reserves, and another of cavalry, will go into camp in the vicinity of Erfurt and Gotha on Sept. 12. The two infantry brigades, the regiment of field artillery, and the pioneers, also ordered out for the manoeuvres, will be brought up by rail on Sept. 11 and 12 and will be distributed among the stations between Gotha and Erfurt. For the parade in Erfurt on Sept. 14 the regiment of foot artillery, No. 4, from Juterbog will also be called in. Thirty thousand men in four divisions will be reviewed at the parade by the Emperor. On the evening of Sept. 14 there will be a grand tattoo of all musicians of the Fourth Corps as well as of the cavalry division, on the Frederick William square in Erfurt. On Sept. 15 the Fourth Corps in two armies will fight a sham battle northwest of Erfurt while the cavalry will proceed toward Cassel to determine the position of the advancing Eleventh Corps. The Fourth Corps will follow the cavalry on Sept. 16. On Sept. 17 the imperial headquarters will be moved from Erfurt to Muhlhausen, and there on Sept. 17 and 18 the manoeuvres of the Fourth Corps against the Eleventh Corps will culminate. On Sept. 19 the two corps will be united and will operate against a third corps of temporary formation. The exact size of the total force involved in the manoeuvres is not yet known. It will probably be about 60,000 to 65,000 men.

Pure Tea in Canada.

Fifty-eight samples of tea, comprising all kinds, and taken from widely separated establishments have recently been examined by Prof. Kenrick, official analyst for Manitoba, at the request of the Inland Revenue Department. Unlike the greater part of the mustard and pepper which is offered the Canadian public, and which was discovered to be so shamelessly adulterated, the teas in the Canadian market are practically pure. Considering the fact that tea is so generally used by the Canadian people—the amount imported in 1890-1 being 18,451,373 pounds, or an average of nearly 33 pounds for every man, woman and child in the Dominion—the question of the quality of our teas is one of more than trifling importance. It is gratifying therefore to be assured that "the adulteration of the tea sold in Canada is practically nil." According to Prof. Kenrick, the methods of adulteration of tea are chiefly three: (1) Admixture with leaves from plants other than the tea plant; (2) the substitution, wholly or in part, of "exhausted" leaves or leaves that have been already used in making tea and subsequently dried and rolled up again in imitation of genuine tea; (3) the addition of various mineral substances in order to add weights to the tea. Prof. Kenrick adds that the coloring matter used in making green tea and which is supposed by many to be so injurious adds no appreciable weight to the tea and is practically harmless. And thus another popular fallacy has been exploded.

A sensational story to the effect that Europe narrowly escaped war last winter at the time that Empress Frederick visited Paris comes from Jacques St. Crede, the editor of the *Figaro*, who asserts that "the Kaiser gave and signed orders for mobilization and that it was only because the military staff delayed sending out the orders for one day that war was not begun. During the night," M. St. Crede continues, "a telegram came from Queen Victoria begging William not to take umbrage at what was really not an insult to the Empress, and at the same time arrived a despatch from the Vienna Mobilization, which had got wind of the orders for mobilization, stating that the Paris incident was not a *casus belli*. In consequence of these telegrams the Kaiser annulled the fortunately delayed orders." How much truth there is in this story it would be difficult to say. It must be borne in mind that it comes from an inveterate enemy of the Germans and of their young Emperor, that it is certainly not unprejudiced and is likely to be highly colored. If receiving it one would do well to add the traditional grain of salt.