



NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The movement in favor of introducing the metric system of weight and measure into the United Kingdom has of late acquired great impetus, and has secured the qualified approval of Mr. Balfour, the leading representative of the Salisbury Government in the House of Commons.

It has often been alleged in England that the agitation for the adoption of the metric system is maintained by scientific men unfamiliar with the practical difficulties that would be encountered in the application of new modes of weighing and measuring to ordinary life.

These persons whose memories go back for a generation will appreciate how much British public opinion on this subject has been modified. In the Parliamentary report of a committee which sat thirty-three years ago, two men of science no less distinguished than Sir John Herschel and the late Astronomer Royal, Sir George Airy, opposed the adoption of the metric system.

THE SUN-DIAL OF AHAZ.

A SERMON FULL OF BRIGHTNESS AND GOOD CHEER.

Rev. Dr. Talmage Sets Watches and Clocks Going for the New Year in Brightness—God's Control of the Dial Shadow.

Washington, Dec. 22.—And Isaiah the prophet, cried unto the Lord: and He brought the shadow ten degrees backward by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz." II. Kings, 20, 11.

Here is the first clock or watch or chronometer or time piece which the world has any knowledge of. But it was a watch that did not tick and a clock that did not strike. It was a sun dial, Ahaz, the King, invented it.

The second was its most important inventor. And the skill of centuries of exquisite mechanism toiled at the time pieces until the world had the clock of the fourteenth century and Huyghens, the inventor, swung the first pendulum, and Dr. Hooke contrived the recoil escapement.

These persons whose memories go back for a generation will appreciate how much British public opinion on this subject has been modified. In the Parliamentary report of a committee which sat thirty-three years ago, two men of science no less distinguished than Sir John Herschel and the late Astronomer Royal, Sir George Airy, opposed the adoption of the metric system.

These persons whose memories go back for a generation will appreciate how much British public opinion on this subject has been modified. In the Parliamentary report of a committee which sat thirty-three years ago, two men of science no less distinguished than Sir John Herschel and the late Astronomer Royal, Sir George Airy, opposed the adoption of the metric system.

Zekeiah got well. Now I expect you will come on with your higher criticism and try to explain this away and say it was an optional delusion of Zekeiah, and the shadow only seemed to go back, or a cloud came over, and it was uncertain which way the shadow did go, and as Zekeiah expected it to go back he took the action of his own mind to turn the retrograde movement.

At that point the shadow of the sun-dial of Ahaz retreat ten degrees. People make a mistake in always talking about being old and getting on in years. From all I can hear ever been in a room adjoining a room where some very old people a little while ago were talking.

My friends, I cannot look for one moment on that retrograde shadow on Ahaz's dial without feeling that I am an investment that never pays. We purchase goods that we cannot dispose of, or a crop of grain we sowed is ruined by frost, and instead of a profit we have a loss.

My friends, I cannot look for one moment on that retrograde shadow on Ahaz's dial without feeling that I am an investment that never pays. We purchase goods that we cannot dispose of, or a crop of grain we sowed is ruined by frost, and instead of a profit we have a loss.

My friends, I cannot look for one moment on that retrograde shadow on Ahaz's dial without feeling that I am an investment that never pays. We purchase goods that we cannot dispose of, or a crop of grain we sowed is ruined by frost, and instead of a profit we have a loss.

My friends, I cannot look for one moment on that retrograde shadow on Ahaz's dial without feeling that I am an investment that never pays. We purchase goods that we cannot dispose of, or a crop of grain we sowed is ruined by frost, and instead of a profit we have a loss.

THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL.

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

Dr. Montague has been sworn in as Minister of Agriculture. The contest at Kingston enjoyed a 1,200 pound pudding on Christmas Day.

A farmer named Piche blew out the gas in his room at Montreal and died from suffocation. Traffic receipts on the C. P. R. show an increase for the week ending December 21 of \$86,000 over the corresponding week of 1894.

A London West young woman named Mary Price swallowed an ounce of laudanum with suicidal intent after a quarrel with her intended. Her life was saved.

London is to have another Oriental visitor, the Nizam of Hyderabad. He is expected to arrive in London in the latter part of the month.

The Queen is greatly interested in the Asiatic expedition, and also in Barney Barratt's Kaffir boys. She has ordered the Colonial Office to keep her informed of the latest developments in these matters.

The marriage of Miss Maple, of London, to Baron Eckhardtstein is likely to be one of the events of next season, for the daughter of Sir John Bunnell Maple was put on board of an accomplished girl, but one of the greatest heiresses in England.

There were six suicides and one accidental death in New York at Christmastide. By the burning of the saw mill of the Sutherland Lumber Company at Ashland, Wis., three men lost their lives.

Poker playing for money is not gambling, according to Chief Justice Beatty, of the California Supreme Court, or at least there is no criminal act committed in playing the game for money stakes.

A lift span four hundred and twenty-one feet long is proposed for the new Kansas City bridge. The thing works on weights, like a window shaft.

WHAT UNCLE SAM IS AT.

ITEMS OF INTEREST ABOUT THE BUSY YANKEE.

Neighboring Interest in His Doings—Matters of Moment and Girth Gathered from His Daily Record.

Woman suffrage is being pushed vigorously in Idaho. There is a club in each county. Chicago's ball team, under Anson's management, is said to have cleared \$75,000 on the past season.

James Dowling, a patrolman of the New York police force, can speak the Chinese language. He learned it while doing duty in the Chinatown of the metropolis.

Miss Alice Ireland, of New York, has graduated as a dentist. She claims to be the first woman to practice dentistry in Gotham, although there are others in various parts of the country.

Discoveries of valuable wax, which promise to develop into very large mines, have been made near Healdsburg, Cal. The store is beautifully marked, and a blast of the face of the ledge has exposed it in great quantities.

Needle threading socials are the latest kind of money raising church entertainments. The outlay is small and the fun is said to be of the \$10 variety. A Camden, N.J., lady holds the record for threading fourteen needles in three minutes, and the best record for men is seven. A pencil sharpening match is one of the by-plays, to give the poor men a share.

An almost perfect cedar tree was discovered buried at a depth of 170 feet below the surface of the earth near Eureka, Calif. It was found by well-diggers last week. Large pieces of the trunk and branches were taken out, and so well preserved was the tree that the grain of the wood was very plain. The well was dug through soft soil and soapstone and a little basaltic rock near the surface.

A hero, but somewhat funny war is waging in Ballia, Michigan, where the Salvation Army has its headquarters in the same building with a saloon, the former upstairs and the latter on the ground floor. Every man who wants a drink has to run the gauntlet of a line of pickets set out by the Salvationists.

After seventy years of married life together, Mr. Sigmond and Mrs. Elizabeth, of Shepherdstown, W. Va., died on the same day within a few hours of each other, last week. Mr. Files was only six inches tall and was covered with hair to within a year the old man was in full possession of all his faculties, and rode about the country on spirited horses. His wife was a severe cold when he was nearly 90 years old.

For some little time a law and order league at Davenport, Wash., has been active in the collection of the state tax law, but with no success. Last week a number of citizens of the town called on all the saloon keepers and business men and asked them to contribute to the league. They were told to contribute on Sunday as a matter of courtesy to oblige the citizens that the committee representing the league was a private and confidential matter.

KILLED BY HIS MANIAC SON.

Millionaire Aschoff Stabbed to Death With a Carving Knife.

Another frightful tragedy has just been enacted in Wiesbaden, Germany, which illustrates the danger of harboring so-called lunatics in the family.

The death rate among the officers is very heavy. In four days a commander, four captains and two lieutenants died of the disease. In the military hospital there are more than 1,000 sick soldiers, of whom from ten to fifteen die every day.

Another frightful tragedy has just been enacted in Wiesbaden, Germany, which illustrates the danger of harboring so-called lunatics in the family. For years the well-known millionaire, Herr Aschoff, has refused to permit the incarceration of his son in an insane asylum.

Through the affidavits of prominent physicians he managed to evade the law which forbids the keeping of lunatics and imbeciles outside the state or private institutions. In a sudden fit of anger young Aschoff grabbed a large carving-knife from the dining-room table and aimed it at his aged father to death.

The Perils of Pig Killing. Peter Hofmeister, a German farmer residing in North Sewickley Township, Penn., undertook to butcher one of his fat hogs the other day by shooting it with a rifle. His aim was poor and the ball, instead of striking the animal between the eyes, missed the head entirely and cut a great furrow along its side.

Color of the Eye. It has been remarked by those who are most conversant with the anatomy of the optic that the darkest-eyed eye is most susceptible to change. The fading of the black eye is no secret, as it is almost universal and this is naturally accounted for from the known fact that the black eye is not black, but a yellow of deep color, and sometimes found in combination with one or more colors. The light blue and the gray seem to be the most lasting.

A Thoughtful Hostess. Hostess (to male wall-flower)—Permit me to introduce you to a charming dancer, Mr. Westend. Mr. Westend—Au, thanks, no, I never dance. Would you like to join the card-party in the drawing room? Mr. Westend—Well, supper will be ready soon.

Mr. Henpeck (anxiously)—Can I bring you any more of those Besses, the set assing, my wife's will? Lawyer—Why, your wife isn't dead, man is she? Mr. Henpeck—No; that's just the trouble.

At Boston one day recently Mrs. Bellingham Booth made three addresses, reviewed the local Salvation Army, and attended a reception in the evening. She was at work again next day before ten o'clock.

Some of the French railroads transport wine in bulk in tank cars.