THE FATHERLAND.

Celebration of Emperor William's 87th Birthday.

DEVOTION OF HIS GERMAN SUBJECTS.

Interesting Sketch of a Busy and Eventful Life.

Heil, dir im Siegerkranz.
Herrscher des Va erlands,
Heil, Kœ ig dir!
Fuehl' in des Thrones Glanz
Die hohe Wonne ganz
Liebling des Volks zu sein,
Heil, Kœnig dir

The ruler of Germany entered upon his 88th year on Saturday last, and there was general rejoicing and festivity among the children of the Fatherland at home and abroad.

A Berlin cablegram says: The Emperor's 87th birthday was generally celebrated. At 6 o'clock in the morning a choral was played on the tower of the palace. The schools were closed and divine services were held in all the churches. The Emperor received congratulations from 10 o'clock n the morning—first the members of the family, then the princely guests who arrived, the officers of the Court, the Diplomatic Corps, the Generals, Ministers, members of the Bundesrath and the President of the Reichstag. The Ministers were headed by Prince Bismarck and the Generals by Prince Frederic Charles. The Emperor received all standing on his feet. Occasionally he showed himself from the historic corner window to the people assembled below when he was heartily cheered. A banquet was also given at the Rathhouse by the city magistrates. At night a general illumination and festivals took place all over the city.

Among the mass of congratulations received the one of Emperor Alexander of Russia is especially hearty.

Bismarck gave a dinner to the Diplomatic Corps here at night, in honor of the Emperor's birthday. Lord Ampthill, the British Ambassador, proposed the health of the Emperor. Bismarck proposed the toast to the represented sovereigns and nations.

The day was observed throughout Germany with parades, banquets and festival performances in the theatres, schools and barracks. At a banquet at Stuttgart the toast to the Emperor was proposed by Queen Olga. At Darmstadt the troops were reviewed by the Grand Duke Ludwig. At Strassburg the foundation stone of the Imperial Palace was laid.

AN EVENTFUL LIFE.

The life of the aged Emperor embodies much of recent European history. He was born in 1797, on March 22nd, the second son of King Friedrich William III. of Prussia, and of the Princess Louise of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. Educated as a soldier, he took part in the bloody campaign of 1813 and 1814 against Napoleon Bonaparte. He has had his life attempted on several occasions, and he has also had such vicissitudes in his career as appeared likely at the time of their occurrence to preclude the possibility of his ever occupying his present high position. He was made Governor of the Prussian Province of Pomerania in 1840. During the revolution of 1848 he was a refugee in England. Circumstances favoring his return to his own country, he became Commander-in-Chief of the Prussian army, and saw active service in that capacity in 1849. Ten years afterward saw him Regent, in consequence of the mind of his brother (the King) giving way. Possessed of an imperious turn of mind, he soon quarrelled with the Chamber of Deputies, and in 1862 he saved the country from civil war and laid the foundations of that power which has since made him the greatest sovereign of the continent of Europe by allying himself with Count Bismarck.

EMPEROR OF GERMANY.

Under Bismarck's Prime Ministership, Prussia rapidly rose to great fame by trampling in succession upon Denmark, Austria and France. On the 18th of January, 1871, King Wilhelm reached the pinnacle of his greatness, when, in the Hall of Mirrors in Versailles, he allowed himself to be proclaimed Emperor of United Germany. In 1878 his life was attempted by Hodel, the Socialist; less than a month afterward he was again shot at in the Unter den Linden, and on this occasion he was wounded, the culprit being Dr. Noebling, who afterward committed suicide. Emperor William married fifty-five years ago Augusta, daughter of the late Grand Duke Karl Friederich of Saxe-Weimar, to whom he addressed the telegrams which successively announced the battles and triumphs of the war with France.

"FOUR KINGS."

Prince Friederich Wilhelm, the eldest son and heir apparent to the kingdom and empire, was born October 18th, 1831. He is a field marshal in the German army, and took a leading part in the campaign in France. His wife is the eldest daughter of Queen Victoria, the Princess Royal of Great Britain, to whom he was married January 25th, 1858. They have six children. The eldest, Friederich Wilhelm, born January 27th, 1859, was married February 27th, 1881, to Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein Augustenburg, and their son is the fourth in the series of "four kings," as the patriarchal Emperor expressed it on Sunday, June 4th, 1882, when a photograph of a unique character was taken at the Marble Palace in Potsdam, Germany. The principal figures in it were the Emperor Wilhelm, the Crown Prince, Prince William and the infant Prince, whom the imperial great-grandfather bore in his arms, thus presenting the first four generations of the new imperial house of Germany in a single group.

THE SEVENTH MONARCH.

Emperor Wilhelm is the seventh monarch of the Prussian house of Hohenzollern. His kingdom comprises an area of 137,066 English square miles and about 28,000,000 inhabitants. As Emperor of Germany as well as King of Prussia, he is the potentate over an area of 212,091 English square miles, and a population of over 45,000,000 subjects, including the unwilling people of Alsace-Lorraine, about a million and a half in number, who, in 1871, were compelled from their allegiance to France to that of the newly-founded German Empire, by the stern hand of military force. On the 8th of last January he sent the following characteristic letter in reply to the congratulations sent by the magistrates of Berlin on New Year's Day:

"I pray God that in His goodness it has still been vouchsafed to me to inaugurate the proud monument on the banks of the Rhine, which is destined not only as a perpetual commemoration of the happily regained unity of Germany, but also as an earnest sign of the invigorated and true might of the united German empire. The grand festival in honor of Martin Luther's birth, in which, after four centuries, the whole of evangelical Christendom united with me, will not less ever remain for me an elevating reminiscence. It affords me the greatest gratification that the new year has come under circumstances which verify the hope of quiet, undisturbed times. I am convinced that under the blessed protection of peace, of the maintenance of which I have obtained fresh guarantees through personal intercourse with friendly princes, the nation will in the future find a prosperous development."

COLONIZATION COMPANIES.

Quantity of Land Granted and Money Received.

An Ottawa telegram says: The acres allotted to the colonization companies and the amounts received therefor during the calendar year of 1882 were as follows:

Name of Company.	*Acres.*	*Payments*
Fertile Belt Company	61,422	$ 24,853
Temperance Colonization Company	213,000	84,000
Primitive Methodist Colonization Company	63,513	24,576
Qu'Appelle Land Company	61,221	24,760
Farmers' Northwest Land & Colonization Company	58,095	24,576
Dominion Lands Colonization Company	115,151	45,250
Dundee Land Investment Company	10,244	4,097
Montreal & Western Land Company	30,375	12,300
Touchwood Qu'Appelle Land & Colonization Company	63,981	24,576
W. Vahey and John Wilkinson	10,240	5,000
York Farmers' Colonization Company	61,220	24,576
Qu'Appelle & Long Lake Land Company	36,990	10,000
H. W. C. Meyer	10,240	4,096
C. F. Furgus n and others	30,720	12,288
Henry D. Smith	10,240	4,096
Prince Albert Colonization Company	42,240	20,480
Edmonton & Saskatchewan Land Company	57,383	24,576
P. Purcell	56,322	22,578
Saskatchewan Land & Homestead Company	200,554	81,197
Scottish Ontario & Manitoba Land Company	28,712	11,543
Shell River Colonization Company	30,624	6,144
A. Scott and T. Hay	25,600	10,240
Fertile Belt Agricultural Company	46,080	18,432
P. V. Valin	32,640	13,107
Wm. Sharples	20,480	8,192
Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company	23,000	6,000
Total acres disposed of and amount received	1,400,663	$551,536

AN UNKNOWN COUNTRY.

Difficulties in the way of the British Troops in the Soudan.

The seat of war in the Soudan is practically an unknown country. Although travellers have frequently passed through the Eastern Soudan from Suakim to Berber on the west and Kassala on the south, the country has not been surveyed, either near the coast or further inland. Consequently the exact position of villages and wells, whither the British forces are about to proceed is not definitely known. Even Sinkat is placed on one German map recently issued thirty miles north of the spot where it is located on the best English maps. The district between the hills and the sea coast has really yet to be explored. Tamanieb is the late headquarters of Osman Digna, where he deposited his plunder, stores and munitions, where he lodged his women and children and kept his flocks and herds. Tamanieb is near the foot hills of the ridge running almost north and south to the west of Suakim, and it is supposed to be seated about thirteen or fifteen miles from that port. The Walls of Handoub, often mentioned as the encampment of the "friendly tribes" who some time since warned Osman not to meddle with them, is north of Tamanieb, close up to the great mountain barrier.

Cruelty to Animals.

Lending a willing horse to two women to go driving.

Condemning a hen to have its head chopped off by a woman.

Compelling a dog to stay in the room while you practice on the flute.

Putting an English sparrow in a cage and forcing it to eat worms or starve.

Mistaking a dude for an organ-grinder's monkey in the presence of the monkey.

Teaching a parrot to say unpleasant truths to your neighbor, and then leaving it where he can get hold of it.

Taking your sweetheart and her mother out riding when you have but one horse. Leave one of them at home.

Causing a gentleman cow to over-exert himself in hot weather by passing through a pasture with a red garment on.

Making a sensitive bulldog feel bad by ignoring his presence and trying to pass him after he has growled and shown his teeth.

Jumping on to a table and yelling like a wild Indian when a mouse appears. The poor little animals are often frightened into fits.

The Only Man with a Beard.

Mr. Muntz, the senior member for Birmingham, who was one of those who congratulated Mr. Peel on his elevation to the Speaker's chair, was present at the baptism of the latter when he was named Arthur Wellesley, after the Duke of Wellington, who was also present on the occasion in the capacity of godfather. This was in the year 1829, when Mr. Muntz was in his 18th year. Mr. Muntz's father (also M. P. for Birmingham) wore a beard when there was not another in the House of Commons, and was known throughout England as "the man with the beard."

Jacob Eyler, of Trotwood, O., aged 72 years, who is credited with owning the greatest part of the lively village in which he lived, committed suicide recently because he feared that he would have to pay a neighbor $100 damages, resulting from an overflow of water from one of the ditches on his farm.

THE MAHDI AND HIS METHODS

A New Story of the False Prophet of the Soudan—The Belief in His Divine Mission.

At the present moment the Mahdi and Gordon Pasha are the centre of public interest all over the world. M. Gabriel Charmes, in the *Journal des Debats*, devotes two articles to the heroes of the hour. He tells the following story of the Mahdi: When any of the Christians of the Soudan are brought before the prophet he urges them to abandon their faith and recognize in him the Messiah of the Scriptures. One of the Sisters of the French Catholic mission declared that she was quite ready to comply with his desire, but as the Scriptures said that the Messiah should be recognized by his miracles, she thought it would be well if the Mahdi were to perform a miracle, in which case she, with all her companions, would with an easy conscience bow down and worship him. Mohammed Ahmed replied with some embarrassment that she was right; that, however, the time for miracles had not come yet, although it was near, and that he would take the nuns themselves under his protection to prepare them for conversion. Persons who have seen the Mahdi say that he delights in playing the part of the enlightened dervish, shaking his head and murmuring prayers while walking about, with his eyes lifted to the heavens. The belief in his divine mission strengthened by the fact that on his right cheek he has a scar of some kind by which, according to Mussulman superstition, the Messiah is to be recognized. It is almost incredible to what an extent this belief is spread in Islam. Arabi made believe, and perhaps believed himself, that he was the Messiah, because an old blind sheik had discovered the letter L printed on his forehead. In the same way the Soudanese discovered the legitimacy of the Mahdi's divine mission. After the defeat of Gen. Hicks, the Mahdi ordered a hole to be dug in the ground about four yards deep; into this hole he descended and remained in it for above half an hour; on his ascent he told his followers that God had commanded him not to march toward Khartoum before the end of two months. * * * He maintains also that it is the will of God that he, after going to Khartoum, should proceed toward Berber and thence to Cairo; having converted all the Egyptian Mussulmans, he will go to Mecca and Medina; in passing he will drive away the Sultan from Constantinople, which he thinks will not be difficult, for, according to his geography, Constantinople is quite near to the Suez Canal. In the meantime, while he is waiting, he causes his name to be invoked in public prayer instead of the name of Mohammed. If anybody is, by necessity or conviction, ready to be converted, he is taken before the Mahdi, who addresses him with the words: "Inta akat el bea moukdieh?" (Do you accept the religion of the Mahdi?) The convert replies: "Akat" (yes), kisses the Mahdi's hand, and the conversion is completed.

Some Big Things.

A ten-foot alligator was captured recently near Waxahatchie, Texas.

The U. S. Government envelope factory at Hartford, Conn., uses a ton of gum a week.

A party of Baton Rouge, La., bird hunters recently killed 1,400 robins with sticks.

A sea dog was killed on the beach near Long Branch, N. J., not long ago. It weighed 143 pounds.

While trapping near Bridgman, Mich., William Williams caught an eagle that measured nine feet.

A cow horn 4 feet 11 inches long and 18 inches in diameter at the base is on exhibition at Monticello, Fla.

An owl measuring four feet and two inches from tip to tip was recently captured in Franklin county, Georgia.

Robins are found in flocks of 10,000 in the neighborhood of Powhattan, Va. A man recently killed 480 of the birds.

A lady 60 years old, residing in Rochester, N. Y., skated from that city to Brockport, twenty miles, in an hour and twenty-five minutes.

Charles White, of Thorndike, Me., has three yokes of oxen whose united weight is 12,210 pounds. One yoke measures eight feet four inches, and weighs 4,865 pounds.

New Orleans recently had a baby show, with ninety-nine infants on exhibition. The first prize was won by a seven months old baby that weighed thirty-one pounds.

The United States Treasury has the biggest spittoon on record. It is a great obleng wooden box as big as a bed, filled with sawdust. It lies in the basement at the foot of the four flights of stairs which lead to the various stories, and accommodate the Government employees and others.

J. B. Kerns, of Stokes county, N.C., went there from Pittsburg, Pa., four years ago. In that time six children have been added to his family. He has been married to the same wife eighteen years, and has twenty-three children living. Seventeen of them are boys and six girls. His wife is 46 and he 48.

Discovery of a Petrified Man.

A London despatch says: Geo. Simpson, of McGillivray, recently made a remarkable discovery. When digging on his farm he struck on a large stone, and after clearing the dirt away discovered a petrified man. The being must have belonged to a race long since extinct, as it measured 7 feet 4½ inches in height, and was almost perfect in form. Parts of the body are white and the rest has turned a dark greyish color. Mr. Simpson brought the figure to Parkhill and placed it in the grocery store of his son, where large numbers of people call every day to see it. It is one of the greatest curiosities ever seen in this country. Mr. Simpson is negotiating with the manager of the Zoo, in Toronto, for the sale of his curious discovery.

A Rome despatch says the Congregation of Cardinals discussed yesterday the expediency of the Pope's leaving Rome, and also considered the question whether the next conclave shall be held in Italy. The Pope will make no decision without the concurrence of the powers.

A rumor was circulated in Havana in Saturday that an order had been received from the Government at Madrid declaring Cuba in a state of siege. The authorities at Havana pronounce it absurd.

SCRAPS OF SCIENCE.

Practical Points Gathered from the World's Savans.

The tunnel connecting the Lancashire and Cheshire sides of the river Mersey is now nearly finished. The rock has been reported as very favorable for excavation.

Whatever may be true of harmless luxuries in the way of drink, the *Lancet* maintains that health, happiness and work find stimulus enough in the unsophisticated well of nature—in pure water.

Every nickel is said by metallurgists to contain enough arsenic to kill a man. There may be something in that. Clergymen have been known to die in places where only nickels are put in the contribution boxes.

Mr. Buxton, Chairman of the London School Board, states that, "anomalous as it may seem, the more vigorously compulsion is enforced against absentees, the greater the tendency to an irregular attendance" at school.

Direct electric lighting of one of the trains of the District Railway between Kensington and Putney is stated to be very successful. The light is not only superior to that obtained from oil or gas, but is reported to cost only two-thirds that of the latter.

Paper wash-basins, buckets and similar articles for domestic purposes are generally made of straw pulp, and, after they are roughly made into the desired shape, they are subjected to hydraulic pressure in strong moulds, where they acquire the finished form.

A new religious sect in Boston holds that disease is caused by the absence of God from the body, and that it can be cured by the passage of the Divine affluence from the well to the sick as they sit with their spines in contact. It is said to number among its votaries people of influence and prominence.

A cinerary urn has been discovered on the farm of Cuttyhill, Longside, in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The shape of the urn is globular, fifteen inches in diameter and eleven inches in depth. It was formed of a brownish sort of clay. The bones which filled the receptacle crumbled into dust on being touched.

The coral industry on the Algerian coast is now regulated by a decree of the French Government. In future the fishing for coral must no longer be conducted with the use of apparatus made of iron or other metal, as it is supposed that implements of this nature tend to destroy the reefs and prevent their reproduction.

Phylloxera on the roots of vines forwarded to England for examination by experts, through Kew officials, by the Government of Victoria, have been found in considerable numbers, although the vines themselves were effectually destroyed. It appears that the earth protected the pests which had found their way underground.

A man was suffering from gangrene of the lungs, with cough, difficulty of breathing and fever. The odor of the breath was most offensive. The patient was put upon a mixture containing carbolic acid, but as no improvement followed, tincture of eucalyptus was substituted for the acid. In two days after the use of the last prescription the odor of the breath was less disgusting, and in less than two weeks the man was discharged cured. The beneficent work was attributed to the action of the eucalyptus by Dr. Bonamy.

The height and velocity of clouds may be determined by means of photography. Two cameras are placed 600 feet apart and provided with instantaneous shutters, which are released by electricity at the same moment. The angle of inclination of the cameras and the position of the cloud as photographed are thus obtained, and simple trigonometrical operations give the height and distance from those data.

A recent writer on the emotions of infants says curiosity shows itself the minute a child begins to take interest in other things besides its food, and when, though it still carries everything to its mouth, it does so merely because the tongue is the finest as well as the most exercised organ of touch. At this stage the child handles things, looks at them closely, pulls them to pieces, and so in playing instructs himself.

Sir J. Freyer inclines to the belief that, notwithstanding the fact of the toothless upper jaw, deer do actually consume their shed horns. He picked up recently at the deer forest at Dunrobin, Scotland, a horn which appeared to show that it had been in great part eaten away, and this, it seems, was the belief also of the members of the Zoological Society of London, to whom he had recently exhibited the gnawed specimen. The marks on the horn are such as would be made by the broad incisors of the lower jaw, and here scientific observation seem to confirm popular opinion.

Defects of our Civilization.

It is often the case that the most telling criticisms made on our civilization come from those who have been brought up under a different system. A statement made by the Japanese Ambassador to England has recently been published, which is a good illustration of the force of this assertion. When asked what he thought of European society, he replied: "One great drawback to it is the entire absence of the sense of brotherhood which the strain and competition of modern business had produced. In Japan the members of a family are all bound together by the closest social ties. When I am in Tokio, there is no man of my native village, no matter how poor, how mean or how destitute he may be, that would not have the utmost confidence in coming to me for assistance. Nor could I refuse it to him. Thus, in the Japanese capital, with a population of 1,500,000, there are only 800 or 900 persons who depend upon the State for their support—that is, who correspond to your paupers." The fatal defect in modern civilization is the entire lack of outside responsibility. The rule of competition is an essentially selfish one, and personal success—the reward which it offers—can ordinarily be secured only by ignoring the claims which others may make.

The irritation of the German authorities against the United States Minister at Berlin seems to have died out. Mr. Sargent has been invited to a soiree given at the palace to-day in honor of the 87th birthday of the Emperor. He also dines with Prince Bismarck in honor of the event.

THE SASH CRAZE.

The Habitant and How He Sells His Wares.

The French-Canadian *habitant* is quick to learn some things. During the past winter the rage among fashionable young men who go tobogganing and snow-shoeing has been the old-fashioned Canadian sash. This is a kind that have great breadth, length and length of fringe. They are, it is said, not woven nowadays, and can only be had from carters and others who have had them for years. Quite recently as much as $8 and $9 have been paid for these relics of old Canada. A day or two ago a carter's sleigh did a thriving business by selling them for $4 or $5 each. To-day an aged carter dressed out with a splendid specimen walked up and down in front of the St. Lawrence Hall so as to attract the eye of the young bloods who affect these sashes, and who when they purchase one tell their friends that it came from some of the back country villages or that it is a family heirloom. The season is too far advanced for the old man to sell many now. —*Montreal Witness.*

Curious Facts.

A flower has been discovered in South America which is only visible when the wind is blowing. The shrub belongs to the cactus family, and grows about three feet in height, with a crook on top, giving it the appearance of a black hickory cane. When the wind blows a number of beautiful flowers develop from little lumps on the stalk.

A curious experiment has been tried by M. Margelidet, a French naturalist. Five years ago he placed a toad in a hole made in some granite, and covered it with impermeable cement, and recently, in the presence of several spectators at the Paris Museum of Natural History, he released it. The animal, though in a torpid state, was alive and healthy.

A scientific experimenter once drew out from the body of a single spider three thousand four hundred and eighty yards of thread or spider-silk—a length of a little short of three miles. Silk may be woven of spider's thread, and it is more glossy and brilliant than that of the silk-worm, being of a golden color. An enthusiastic entomologist secured enough of it for the weaving of a suit of clothes for Louis XIV.

Dr. George Schweinfurth, the German explorer of Central Africa, who now resides in Egypt, has sent to Sir Joseph Hooker, director of the Kew Gardens, a long account of the plants contained in some wreaths found in the coffin of an Egyptian Princess (mummy). They comprised leaves of the willow, leaves of the date palm, corn-poppy flowers and corn flower. Of the poppies, Dr. Schweinfurth says that the inner portion are in a wonderful state of preservation. Not a stamen, not an anther is wanting; nay, one might almost say that not even a pollen grain is missing. Rarely are such perfect and well-preserved specimens of this fragile flower met with in herbaria. The color, too, of the petals is maintained in a high degree as in the dried specimens of the present day. It is a dark brown red, that leaves a deep stain on the paper where the flowers have been soaked. The Princess at whose funeral these flowers were used lived about eleven centuries before the Christian era. Pine cones, which must have been employed as funeral offerings a thousand years earlier, have been found in a vault at Thebes.

Ben Butler's Nerve.

Speaking of duels reminds me that Ben Butler is descended in part from the old Cilley stock, and was hence related to the Jonathan Cilley who fell in the noted Graves-Cilley duel. Butler would have made a duelist himself had he been born in a State and at a time when the code of honor held good. But bean-eating Massachusetts never fights duels, and Butler's nerve has had to be expended in other ways. A notable instance of this occurred in 1856, when Ben Butler was a young practitioner at Lowell. The Buchanan campaign was in full progress, and a great meeting was being held in the largest hall of the city. Rufus Choate, the great lawyer, was addressing the meeting and his eloquence had thrown them into the wildest enthusiasm, when a jar was felt and a crash was heard. The cry went forth, "The floor is sinking." Every one turned pale and the audience rose for a stampede, when Ben Butler came to the front of the platform beside Mr. Choate, and calling the audience to halt, said there was no danger; that the architect of the building was present and that he would go with him and examine the building and report to allay their fears. This quieted the audience. Butler said the architect made an immediate examination of the hall and found the danger very great. Butler at once returned and smilingly assured the audience there was no present danger, but as the hall was overcrowded he advised them to quietly adjourn to the Public Square and there Mr. Choate would finish his speech. The crowd went quietly out and the catastrophe was averted. As Butler stepped on the platform he had whispered to Mr. Choate with a half laugh, in order to deceive the audience. This is what he said, "Mr. Choate, I must clear this house or we shall all be in hell in five minutes."—"*Carp,*" *in Cleveland Leader.*

How Fashions Change.

A lady of prominence in society can almost start as a fashion any freak that may occur to her. If it is in dress it will be surely copied. Women, as a rule, are like so many sheep and must be led. Mrs. Ogden Goelet was the first lady to wear a jewelled pin at the back of her bodice, where the lacing meets at the top. The pin was handsome and contained some very precious stones; it was first seen in its new position at one of the Delmonico balls this winter. At the next ball two or three ladies appeared with handsome pins attached to this part of the dress, and it was only a few weeks later that the number of ladies who wore valuable pins on this peculiar spot had considerably increased. And so it is with almost everything that appertains to dress.—*N. Y. Mail and Express.*

"He stood six feet two in his stockings, and every inch a man," says an exchange. H'm! That is seventy-four inches; "every inch a man," would make seventy-four men. This must be the same identical customer who was a "host in himself."—*The Judge.*