THE ORIGIN OF CANNIBALISM.

A Traveller in Fiji Gives His Opinion, with Some Points, on Cannibal Etiquette.

Cannibalism in Fiji, as elsewhere in the South Seas, was a custom which had many reasons for being. It was cultivated both by necessity and superstition, and was introduced and flourished under potent influences. All the South Sea Islands are practically barren of indigenous mammals. Birds there are, but not in plenty, and the sea swarms with turtle and fish; but of the meat which a strong man hankers after there is none—or at least was not until the white man came to these shores and introduced cattle, sheep, goats and swine. The wonder with which the natives regarded these strange animals, and the vague ideas they had of them, is indicated in Fiji by the native name of domestic kine—"bullomacow." When the first pair of cattle was landed the natives asked what they were. "A bull and a cow," answered the white men, and "bullomacow" every horned animal is to the Fijian unto this day. Although anatomists tell us that man is naturally an herbivorous animal, and although certain persons, both by precept and example, have striven to convert the world to vegetarianism there still remains in the soul of man a craving for animal food. The Fijians describe this emotion by the word "Kusima," which means, literally, a longing for meat, and in certain dialects there are four or five words signifying "hunger"—a pregnant circumstance in a country where the fruits of the earth are scattered by nature with a lavish hand. In there facts we find the first strong incentive to cannibalism—a longing to satisfy a craving which the yam, the breadfruit, and the banana could not appease. The first cause of cannibalism, therefore, was necessity, the grimness of which cannot be imagined by one who has not visited the South Seas and observed the unsubstantial character of the provisions which nature has made for their inhabitants.

There seems always to have been a feeling in the Fijian mind that the eating of the flesh of one's kind was debasing and unnatural; therefore, as is often the case, both in barbarous and civilized lands, religious superstition was invoked to excuse the atrocity. In old Fiji, cannibal feasts were almost always attended with religious exercises. Mbau, the royal and holy city—in fact the Jerusalem of Fiji—was the place where blind and idolatrous superstition in reference to cannibalism was most rampant. Here were a congregation of heathen temples, and the headquarters of a loathsome brotherhood known as "devil priests," who conducted the horrible orgies which have stained every stone in Mbau crimson with human blood. When no work was toward, these "devil priests" lived in caves, where they were ministered unto by gifts of food left tremblingly at the doors of their lairs by a fearful population. When the drums (fashioned of logs of wood, and so resonant that their hollow rumble could be heard for miles) were beaten to announce the coming of a victorious war party with prisoners, these ministers of hell descended in fantastic and terrifying garb to to superintend satanic orgies which cannot be described.

The processes of cannibal cookery had sundry pleasing variations at Mbau. The ovens consisted of pits dug in the ground and paved with red-hot stones, whose heat was conserved by seaweed and earth piled around the bodies of the victims. You may see similar ovens to-day in Hawaii, but used for the cooking of dogs and pigs. Often those who were destined for the feasts were trussed like fowls, with sticks beneath their knees and inside their elbows, bound with green withes and set alive upon the ardent oven floors, thereby deriving a flavor much commended by Fijian gourmets. These, however, were of the more tender and succulent ones; the older and tougher were knocked on the head and suspended by the heels to the branches of a huge tree (which was but lately cut down and was known as "the Mbau larder") until they had become more tender and palatable. A pleasing variation of the club was found in a great rock which stood in the ground in the midst of the space surrounded by the temples, against which the victim's skull was deftly cracked by two stout savages, who, in one, two, three time swung him against it. This stone is still to be seen in Mbau, but stands now as the baptismal font in the mission church, a memorial of the gospel of love, as formerly an instrument in the service of horror. According to Fijian mythology the gods delighted in human flesh and honored especially those who had slain and eaten many enemies. To gain celestial approval, puissant chiefs would allow no one to assist them in thus obliterating their foes, and devoured them unaided. In front of a chief's house stones would be set up to tally his exploits in this direction, in one instance over 900 of these memorials showing the prowess of a single individual, both in battle and at the trenches. Records were also kept upon clubs, which were notched to show the number of victims who had been wafted over Styx by them, or bound about with strings of twisted fibre.

While partaking of other food with their fingers, the Fijians always used wooden three-tined forks for human flesh, having a superstition about touching it, as showing (so the people of to-day affirm) a peculiar phorphorescent light unknown to other forms of animal food, and having irritating properties for the skin if handled. "Bakolo" is the Fijian name for human flesh, which is declared indigestible unless eaten with some pungent sauce or aromatic herbs. Cennoisseuis of the table in Fiji devoted much study to the proper dressing for this dish, deciding finally for a shrub called the "borodino" as most suitable. This is a plant with glossy foliage and berries of the size and color of tomatoes, the leaves of which were wound around the "bakolo" and baked with it. In former times every Fijian garden was planted with this relish. The eating of human flesh often produced madness, and those habituated to it were generally to be distinguished by a look of animal ferocity.

Another incentive to cannibalism, superadded to the impulses of necessity and religious superstition, was the desire of vengeance upon one's enemies. To eat a conquered foe was not only to disgrace him and his tribe, but also to secure for oneself all his good qualities of strength and valor. Thus Fijian mothers would steal upon the banqu ting grounds and rub the flesh of victims upon the lips of their sucklings in order that theo might grow up to become notable warriors. A still greater insult to a fallen enemy was not to eat him after killing and cutting him up, and the greatest slight of all was to leave him cooked in the ovens, as a thing too loathsome even to be withdrawn. Shipwrecked sailors who were sometimes cast ashore on the inhospitable coasts of Fiji received short shrift in consequence of a singular application of savage logic. In the first place, there were regarded as a windfall from the gods for the benefit of a people who were chronically on short meat rations; in the second place, it was considered that they must have offended the gods deeply in order to be so buffeted of the elements. On both accounts, therefore, it was a commendable thing to kill and eat them, as showing at once thanksgiving for favors and eagerness to assist divine decrees. From the meshes of such reasoning there was little chance of escape for the unhappy sailors, who were duly eaten, and their bones wrought into needles, skewers lor the hair and barbs of spears. The old-time Fijians had lusty appetites. One of the final outbreaks of cannibalism occurred in 1871, when one tribe killed and ate 260 of their foes—after which, hunger being still unappeased, they began upon the enemies' pigs.

The eating of human flesh seems to be like the appetite for strong drink—growing by what it feeds upon—and those who had become addicted to it were always most difficult to deal with and often quite incorrigible. Thus it happened that the missionaries to certain tribes would be informed that their congregations, being hungry beyond the power of bananas and yams to satisfy, were about to "eat meat," and that they (the missionaries) had better lie close during the proceedings. After a few days of indescribable cannibal orgies the people would settle down again.

Canada and Japan.

The recent arrival at Montreal of a Canadian Pacific express train carrying the passengers of the *Empress of India*, which had left Yokohama but fourteen days before, was an event of more than ordinary interest and significance. This initial voyage of the first fast Canadian steamship on this route seems to have been successful in every respect and is full of promise for the future of this great enterprise. The *Empress of India* ran across the Pacific from Yokohama in a little more than ten days and a-half. She made the whole voyage of 16,300 miles from Liverpool to Vancouver and down to San Francisco in eighty days, having touched at twelve intermediate ports. The event is one of which all Canadians may well be proud. one on which the Canadian Pacific Railway may be specially congratulated, and one which no doubt means great things for the City of Vancouver. The residents of that city did well to take advantage of the presence of Mr. Van Horne on the auspicious occasion of the arrival of the *Empress of India* to present him with a complimentary address, truthfully, we believe, affirming that "the history of the Canadian Pacific Railway stands without a parallel in the annals of railway enterprise," and fittingly recognising that the success achieved has been very largely due to Mr. Van Horne's high administrative ability, and to the energetic and self-reliant spirit which he infused into the Directorate. Mr. Van Horne in reply, after expressing his very high appreciation of the honour done him, proceeded to indulge in certain prognostications which, though they are, as he admitted, the words of an optimist, yet carry great weight with them from the fact that his predictions have hitherto been, in a large measure, justified by results. "I am proud," said he, "of Vancouver and look upon it as certain to become one of the greatest cities on the Pacific Coast, and second to none, not even San Francisco. It is the belief of the Directors and myself that Vancouver has a sound base in the products of British Columbia. I believe, from personal observation, that the mineral resources of this Province surpass any in the continent of America, if not the world. We have also iron, coal and lumber, which are not to be found in any such quantities on any other section of the Pacific Coast. It only requires faith and enterprise to build up on this coast a great city, second to none and better than San Francisco in material resources." If, as is hoped and expected, the line of swift communication with China thus established is followed by another between Vancouver and Australia, and also, in due time, by a fast Atlantic line, the results cannot fail to be of great value to Canada and especially to British Columbia.

The Maharajah's Treasures.

We were taken to the old palace, in the heart of the city, to see the treasure room. Two huge cheetahs, carefully muzzled, used for hunting bucks, were on the palace steps. The regalia of Baroda is valued at £3,000,000. We were first ahown the jewels worn by the Maharajah on state occasions.

These consist of a gorgeous collar of about 500 diamonds, some of them as big as walnuts, arranged in five rows, surrounded by a top and bottom row of emeralds of the same size; the pendant of a famous diamond called the "Star of the Deccan;" an aigrette to match is worn in the turban; then followed strings of pearls of perfect roundness, graduated from the size of a pea to that of a large marble; wondrous rings, necklaces, clusters of sapphires, and rubies as big as grapes.

The greatest marvel of all is a carpet about 10 by 6 feet, made entirely of strings of pure and colored pearls, with great central and corner circles of diamonds. This carpet took three years in making, and cost £390,000. This was one of Khande Rao's mad freaks, and was intended to be sent to Mecca fo please a Mahommedan lady who had ascinated him, but the scandal of such a thing being done by a Hindoo Prince was too serious, and it never left Baroda.

We were also taken to see two guns, weighing 280 pounds each, of solid gold, with two companions of silver, the ammunition wagons, bullock harness and ramrods tall being silver.

The emigration question is becoming a serious one for Italy. A recent despatch from Rome says:—"The exodus is most marked in the Polesine region, on the Po, near Parma, where 400 out of 2,000 families have emigrated this year. Ninety-five families left Crespino together last year. Gavello, which a year ago had 5,000 inhabitants, now has but 800. Polesella has lost 37 families, who all departed at one time. The movement from Rovigo, on the Adige, is so extensive that special trains are run from there to Genoa daily to accommodate the emigrants." Heavy taxation is doubtless the chief cause of this extraordinary movement, and it appears to be unavoidable so long as Italy remains a member of the Triple Alliance, and is thus obliged to keep up her enormous military and naval expenditures.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

The Chicago Standard On Canada's Premier Leader of the Opposition, and Canada's Government and Capital.

The average United States citizen becomes painfully conscious of his ignorance in regard to Canada and her problems, as soon as he visits Ottawa, the seat of the government, and listens to conversations about men and measures of which he has known so little, and as he attempts to gain an intelligent knowledge of the forces in operation in the Dominion. Especially is this true just after the holding of the general elections, and on the eve of the opening of Parliament.

As a general election in Canada takes place ordinarily only once in five years, the ceremonies incident to the assembling of a new parliament are of general interest. The ornate forms are essentially like those observed in the English parliament, and quite impressive. The members of the new parliament were sworn in on Wednesday last, at noon. The ceremony does not differ materially from the method of swearing in of grand jurors in groups of four and five. Preceding this ceremony, the members gathered in the Commons chamber and in the lobbies, where they held an informal reception.

The first figure to fix the attention of the ordinary visitor was that of M. Laurier, the leader of the opposition, although his entrance excited no particular commotion. He is an exceedingly handsome man, with clear-cut features, most stylishly dressed, with an elegant bearing, which was more noticeable, perhaps, in contrast with the many plain and unpolished members about him. His general appearance suggested the successful lawyer.

As soon, however, as the venerable prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, made his appearance, he was most heartily applauded by the conservative members. As he entered the chamber he shook hands very cordially with those present greeting the new members, and having a pleasant word with the old ones, and clapping this and that familiar friend on the shoulder. He has peculiarly careless and shambling gait and his clothes look as if they were not intended for him, but were fitted for some one else. He wore a flaming red necktie which, we were told, was the premier's favorite color.

After several minutes of this general hand-shaking, Sir John walked with his son, Hugh Macdonald, of Winnipeg, a new member, to the clerk's table, and it was an impressive sight, when with their hands upon the same Bible, father and son swore to discharge faithfully their duties as members of the seventh parliament. A moment later M. Laurier, the able opponent of the prime minister, succeeded in threading his way through the crowd to Sir John, and, removing his hat as a mark of respect to the venerable premier, shook hands with him most cordially. This act disclosed a vacant patch on the head of the opposition leader which added half a score of years to his age, which we had imagined about thirty-five.

At the first session of the House of Commons, on Wednesday afternoon, when the members had come to order, in skipped the gentleman usher of the black rod, a most important little personage, bearing the insignia of his office, a black wand tipped with gold. As he reached the center of the Commons chamber he commenced a series of most profound and elaborate bows, and announced first in English and then in French—for the benefit of the large number of French members—that the deputy of the governor desired the presence of the House in the Senate chamber. This deputy is chief justice of the Canadian supreme court, and, seated on the vice-regal throne, he wears his judicial robe of bright scarlet.

The Governor-General, Lord Stanley, in effect merely instructs the House to elect a speaker, and then the House retired to its own chamber, and proceeded to the election of Peter White to the office of speaker. Those who were present had an excellent opportunity to compare the oratorical style of Sir John Macdonald, the premier, with that of his opponent, M. Laurier. Sir John hesitates constantly, and punctuates his address with a succession of "ums," "ahs," and "ohs," while M. Laurier, on the other hand, is an extremely fluent and brilliant speaker, and is never at loss for the right word. He is sometimes termed the silvery-tongued orator.

Before 1867 British North America consisted of a group of isolated provinces with hostile tariffs against one another; there was no communication except by water between the maritime provinces and Quebec and Ontario; Manitoba was unknown; the country between Lake Huron and the Rocky mountains was in the possession and under the control of the Hudson Bay Company, given up to the buffalo and other fur-bearing animals, and to the Indians and a few settlers on the banks of the Red river; while the only communication witn British Columbia was by way of the United States, and by steamer from San Francisco to Victoria. Now the various provinces are united by railroad, and there is inter-provincial free trade from the Atlantic to the Pacific; the country has witnessed an immense development in the last twenty-four years; its trade has enormously increased; the social condition of the people has much improved the prairies of Manitoba and the north-west territories are accessible; British Columbia is within three or four days of Ottawa by a railway passing entirely through British territory; and lines of steamers are plying regularly between Canada and Great Britain, China and Japan, and the West Indies, and endeavors are being made to open up steamship and telegraphic connection with Australia. Sir John is often spoken of as "an old Parliamentary hand," "The Chieftain," "Old To-morrow," from the fact that he is never in a hurry, and is accustomed to postpone the decision of matters until he has had time to digest them. Although seventy-six years of age, his vigor seems not a whit impaired, and he takes a lively interest in everything pertaining to Canada. He possesses that rare faculty of throwing off care, and no matter how momentous the issues may be which are disturbing the country, they never interfere with the sleep of its prime minister. He loves a good story and loves to tell one as did Abraham Lincoln, and his generous hospitality, his personal magnetism are no small factors in helping him to control men.

The speech from the throne which Lord Stanley read in English and in French was not long. In it he stated briefly the principal matters which must be discussed and acted upon during the present session, the most important of which were the question between the United States and Canada. To those who had never witnessed anything of the kind the ceremonies were very interesting.

The opening of Parliament at three o'clock as usual, an occasion o much interest, and the scene in the Senate chamber was imposing and picturesque. The Governor-General, in his striking regalia, was escorted by mounted dragoons, in state, to the parliamentary buildings, where, in the Senate chamber when he entered and took his seat on the throne, were gathered the judges in their scarlet robes, the bishops in rich purple, various officials in their uniforms, the military guard in red, senators and dignitaries in their places, and about one hundred prominent ladies in full dress seated on the floor of the senate, while the four galleries were crowded with ladies and gentlemen, Sir John Macdonald the most conspicuous personage there, standing erect and with military and almost imperial bearing; at the right of his excellency, the Governor-General, in full regalia, with his keen eyes flashing, and seeing everything and everybody, his whole appearance giving the impression that he is a leader of remarkable ability.

The Governor-General, who, by the way, has a salary of $50,000, gave a state dinner at his residence, Rideau Hall, to more than one hundred gentlemen that evening, and afterward a drawing-room was given by Lord and Lady Stanley in the Senate chamber.

Ottawa is beautifully situated on a high bluff overlooking the broad Ottawa river and almost encircled by the blue Laurentian hills. It is not a handsome city, however, and would not compare favorably with hundreds of cities in the States. The public buildings are fine; there are some handsome churches, many comfortable and substantial residences, but there is much that is old and shabby, not to say dilapidated in the small houses even in the best streets, that detract from its beauty. The central and elegant group of parliament buildings on Parliament Hill constitute, however, a most redeeming feature of the town. There are four magnificent buildings, in gothic architecture with several very high and graceful towers with elaborate entrances, and a unique and beautiful building attached containing the noted parliamentary library. These buildings are on high ground, facing an extensive and well kept park, and surrounded by a shaded and romantic walk which almost encircles the bluff, and from which one has charming views of the river, the falls, and the country and hills beyond.

Rideau Hall is but a short drive from the city, and its extensive grounds are between the Ottawa and Rideau rivers, from which one can gain views of both; while Earnscliffe, the residence of Sir John Macdonald is nearer the city and on the bluff above the Ottawa river. Here Lady Macdonald, a tall and stately woman, but withal most gracious and agreeable, receives her friends on Saturday afternoons in a sunny, homelike drawing-room, without ostentation or overmuch formality. On a little stand by her side was her basket of fancy work, with its bright coloured wools which with other homelike surroundings, imparted a feeling of ease even to the guests who were coming and going and paying their respects to the much admired and talented wife of the prime minister.

Altogether a visit to the Canadian capital gives one a much better idea of the country, its leaders and its government than could be obtained in any other way.

The Financial Position in Europe.

The financial situation in Europe is very much disturbed, and it is clear that very powerful influences are at work behind the scenes. It begins to look now very much as if these influences were largely political. There are indications that a struggle is going on between the Great Powers in the money markets. Russia appears to be, as usual, the disturber of the public peace. Our readers have been kept informed of the reports about the action of the Rothschilds and other leading Jewish bankers in regard to Russia by the way of retaliation for Russian oppression of their country. To what extent these bankers have really acted in antagonism to Russia is impossible to determine; but Russia is evidently taking steps for the purpose of embarassing the great banking interests. Her preparations for a possible struggle have been twofold; the concentration of a great army on the Western frontier and the collection of a great monetary reserve. Successive loans have been placed in England and elsewhere, and it was currently reported in Europe that not long ago Russia held gold deposits to the amount of at least $130,000,000, about $60,000,000 being in the hands of the Rothschilds and the balance distributed among the banks of England, France, and Germany. During the past few weeks Russia has been withdrawing a large part of this gold reserve, with the effect of producing stringency and a feeling of uncertainty in the great European markets. The refusal of the Rothschilds to continue placing Russian loans is regarded either as an evidence that some Great Power is standing behind them and fighting Russia in the money markets, or that the Jewish bankers mean to make Russia feel Jewish antagonism as a practical force, or that the Rothschilds believe that Russia actually means war. In any event, the situation is a confused and critical one.

An Ancient Lock.

An Egyptian lock has been found which was in use more than 4,000 years ago. The old Egyptian lock was not made of metal, like those we use nowadays, but of wood, and the key that opened it was wooden, too. On one side of the door to which it was fastened there was a staple, and into this staple fitted a wooden bolt that was fixed to the door itself. When this bolt was pushed into the staple as far as it would go, three pins in the upper part of the staple dropped into holes in the bolt and held it in its place, so that it could not be moved back again until the pins were lifted. The key was a straight piece of wood, at the end of which were three pegs the same distance apart as the pins which held the bolt firm. When the key was pushed into the bolt through a hole made to receive it, the pegs came into such a position that they were able to lift the pins that fixed the bolt, and when these were lifted, the bolt could be lifted out of the staple. The most modern locks work on a similar principle.

Emperor William's speech at Bonn in favour of duelling has already borne fruit in the sentencing of two students to three month's imprisonment in a fortress for fighting a duel. The faculty by a severe treatment of the practice are endeavouring to counteract the effect of the Kaiser's utterance.

The New Royal Mail Steamship Empress of Japan.

The new twin-screw steamer the Empress of Japan, which has been constructed by the Naval Construction and Armaments Company, limited, Barrow-in-Furness, has just undergone her speed trials, with the most satisfactory results. She has been built for the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, to run between Vancouver and China and Japan. She is the second of three steamers built for the same route, her sister ship being the Empress of India, while the third vessel was launched at Barrow yard recently. The builders' usual progressive runs under natural draught conditions were made on the measured mile at Skelmorlie on the Clyde, on March 30. Two runs were made with full power under assisted draught, and the mean speed realized was 18.91 knots, the engines developing close on 10,000 horse power. It is stipulated that these vessels shall run at the rate of 17½ knots on the measured mile and 16 knots on their 500 mile sea trials, these being the requirements of the contract the Pacific Company have entered into with the post office authorities. The vessel afterward proceeded on her sea trial of 500 miles, the course taken being from Wemyss Bay, on the Clyde, to Lundy Island, in the Bristol Channel, and back to Liverpool. The mean speed on this run was 16.85 knots, the mean horse power developed was 7,400, and the consumption of coal per indicated horse power 1.56.

Australian Federation.

There are three difficulties which stands pre-eminently in the way of an agreement regarding the basis on which Australian federation may be made. First comes the question of territorial representation; the colony of Queensland, for instance, is eight times as large as the colony of Victoria, and yet the colony of Victoria is by far the most prosperous and influential: shall they have equal representation in the proposed Senate? Second comes the obstacle which the question of Protection *versus* Free Trade affords. The colony of Victoria is a protectionist colony, that of New South Wales a free-trade colony, although it is said that the protection sentiment is rapidly growing in New South Wales. There is not only the question as to whether the federated colonies shall adopt free trade or protection, but there is the still more difficult question as to whether there shall be a customs union, and free trade between the colonies as there is between the States. Intercolonial jealousies make it probable that the various colonial representatives will find it extremely difficult to arrange a uniform tariff for each colony. It is suggested as a way out of this perplexity that each colony shall adopt its own tariff irrespective of the federal government, with the hope that a customs union would come in time. The fact is that New South Wales and Victoria, which are the two strongest and most influential colonies in Australia, are jealous of each other. Melbourne, the capital of Victoria, and Sydney, the capital of New South Wales, are the largest and finest cities in Australia. The struggle for supremacy between these two cities is the cause of the third and least important, but most amusing and apparently most difficult, obstacle. If the colonies are federated and there is a federated government, of course there must be a capital. What shall be the capital? Sydney cannot bear that Melbourne shall obtain that honor, nor can Melbourne any more endure to see Sydney win the prize. It is seriously suggested that a promising site be selected on the banks of the Murray River, which divides Victoria and New South Wales, and that there a great capital shall be founded. While the proposed federation of the Australian colonies is a most important political event, and one that is likely to play a not minor part in the future history of Anglo-Saxon civilization, it offers a striking illustration of how much more politics there is in the world than statesmanship.

The Tallow Tree in China.

Mr. Hosie, the British consul at Wenchow, in his last report describes a curious vegetable product which is cultivated in his district. This is the tallow tree (*Stillingia sebifera*, Roxb.), the fruit of which produces oil as well as tallow. The berries, which resemble coffee beans in appearance and size, are first steamed and then pounded in an ordinary rice trough. By pounding, the soft mealy mesocarp is partially separated from the kernels. The whole is then placed in a bamboo sieve, the meshes of which are just large enough to allow the mealy matter to be scrubbed through, and small enough to keep back the kernels, which are hard, black, and about the size of peas. From the mealy matter the tallow is expressed in primitive wooden presses. To obtain oil, the kernels are dried and passed between two millstones held at such a distance apart, by means of a bamboo pivot, as to crush the hard shells of the kernels without injuring the white interiors. The whole is then passed through a winnower, which separates the broken shells from the solid matter. The latter is then placed in a deep iron pan, and roasted until it begins to assume a brownish color, the process being accompanied by continual stirring to prevent burning. The crushed shells make an excellent fuel for the purpose. It is then ground by a huge stone roller in a circular stone well, steamed, made into circular cakes with bamboo and straw casings, and passed through the wooden press. A good lighting oil of a brownish yellow color is thus obtained. The tallow is called "p'i yu"—that is, skin or external oil.

Photographs for determining the motions of moving animals and flying birds are now taking on a travelling band of sensitized paper by means of intermittent flashes of light, and the movement of the paper in the focus of the camera is controlled by an electro magnet.

The recent assault upon the Czarewitch in Japan has given rise to much speculation as to its significance. It has been surmised that the act was due to religious fanaticism, that it was a Buddhist protest against the increase of Russian missions, that it was caused by the hostility of the Samurai sect to foreigners, and so on. The latest despatches, however, rather broadly intimate that the young Russian prince, while *incognito*, was simply "clubbed" by a Japanese policeman for being disorderly on the streets of Otsu. This hinted explanation detracts somewhat from the original story, but it is not improbable. Princes are not very different from other young men who sometimes think it their privilege to "run the town."