NOTES AND COMMENTS.

It has been the hope of all good men that the tide of war which set in on the Thessalian border, would not recede without engulphing the most blood-stained of the two remaining Tartar thrones. But history has repeated itself, and the Mongol flood has again overflowed and submerged a civilized and Christian state. A righteous cause has been of no avail against the weight of numbers and superior armament, and for the second time within the year barbarism has triumphed over civilization. The Ottoman power which since it was beaten back before Vienna more than two hundred years ago, has steadily diminished, and a year ago seemed ready to collapse, has been revivified, and become a sturdy giant. The tacit agreement of Europe that Turkey was to be gradually shorn of her territory, and that on no part of it once released was her authority to be reimposed, has been reduced to nullity by the Ottoman occupation of Thessaly. The Turk, who, sixteen years ago at its order handed over Thessaly to Greece, is again in possession, and will use it to secure good terms for himself. The powers who coddled him and used him as a scourge to chastise an independent Christian state, with equal rights in the forum of nations with themselves, for doing what they had pledged themselves to do, has now to deal with a new power no longer willing to take their orders.

It is a discouraging situation, but it has this adventage. It will compel the European federation to show whether it is a real federation, or only a make-believe. The defeat of Greece by Turkey—the defeat of international right by brute force is virtually the act of the powers. It is one for which they have offered no defence, save that it was necessary to avert a general European war, an excuse which may be used to justify any oppression. It has settled nothing. It has not even facilitated agreement upon the kind of autonomy to be given Crete, which it has so embittered the Cretans that they declare their purpose to fight to the last man rather than accept any government at Europe's hands. It has not advanced the solution of the Eastern question an iota but has rendered its solution tenfold more difficult. It has done nothing to further the reforms in Turkey for which the powers have been striving to secure guarantees, but has increased a hundredfold the dangers of misgovernment and massacre. Some of the reforms demanded limit the sultan's control of his treasury, others his autocracy, and still others his choice of counsellors. Hitherto he has met the demand for their enforcement by evasions. Is it reasonable to suppose that with the prestige of victory and advised by soldiers, he will yield the more readily?

What the powers have done is what they have striven for years to avoid doing. They have rehabilitated Turkey, and made her in fact what she has been only in name, a European power. Victorious in war, the position of the sultan as a true sultan favored by Allah will be strengthened with his Ottoman subjects. With an army of more than 400,000 men concentrated in Europe, he can afford to openly oppose the interference of the powers in his affairs, and with the five millions of Greeks in his empire as hostages, and with Thessaly to barter for good terms, may be expected to do so. In that event, the concert must yield or coerce him, that is, make good its assertion of power to make a peace satisfactory to all parties, or confess that it is only a make believe. No doubt if the powers hold together, they can enforce their own terms. But will they? The sultan can hardly give up Thessaly and maintain his prestige with his own subjects. But though the three emperors may consent to his retention of some of the fruits of his victories, it is pretty certain that the western powers will not agree to his retention to any part of Greece. The concert will thus be left virtually where it was before, with Crete refusing to accept its decisions, and the sultan, solidly backed by the Ottoman tribe, challenging its presumption in meddling with his affairs. It makes one rage to say it, but barbarism has triumphed through the sheer ineptitude of Christian powers. Its victory is marked by the groans of all Christians in south-eastern Europe.

CHESS APPROVED BY CLERGY.

It is a singular fact that, while all other games of chance or skill have at one time or another been denounced by the clergy of every faith, chess alone has received their approbation, and among the best players of every land have been clergymen, priests and Bishops.

UNUSUAL.

Kitty—Isn't that a scandalous story about Maud's engagement to that young fellow she met at the seashore?

Jack—I don't know. An engagement is nothing unusual.

Kitty—No; but she really intends to marry him.

DISCOVERIES.

The little new angel was having his bath, and Ladybird was caressing his pink footsole. Suddenly she cried out with delight;

Oh, mamma! He winked his toes beginst my cheek.

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.

CANADA.

Brantford will spend $5,000 on market improvements.

Mr. S. A. Mitchell, of Kingston won a $500 fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

Rev. Dr. George of St. Louis, Mo., has been appointed Principal of the Congregational College, Montreal.

The Montreal City Hall and its contents were seized by bailiffs to satisfy a claim of $12,000 costs in connection with appropriations.

The report of the Minister of Justice for the year ending June, 1896, shows an increase of 6 1-2 per cent. in the number of penitentiary convicts.

The Winnipeg Council has passed a resolution heartily approving the plan for organizing the Victorian Order of Nurses.

Lady Aberdeen has received a cablegram from Sir Donald Smith, donating $5,000 to the fund for the Victorian Order of Nurses, and offering another $5,000 as soon as $100,000 have been contributed in donations of from $1,000 to $5,000 each.

GREAT BRITAIN.

A very eulogistic review of the progress of Canada by the Marquis of Lorne has been published in London.

Lady Charles Ross has been granted a divorce from her husband, Sir Charles Henry Ross, and the counter-suit has been dismissed.

It is stated that the Queen was so much affected recently by the singing of "The Wearing of the Green" at Windsor castle that she wept.

It is said that the Queen intends to confer an honorary Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath on M. Hanotaux, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs.

It is again asserted that Great Britain has become possessed of Delagoa Bay, and that she is preparing, when the proper time comes, to assert her ownership.

The Pall Mall Gazette, in the course of a long article on the business and political outlook in America, says that Mr. McKinley is a distinct failure, and has proved himself more of a party politician than a President.

The Daily Graphic published an interview with Sir Donald Smith in London on Wednesday, in which the Canadian High Commissioner expresses the opinion that the union of Newfoundland with Canada is bound to come.

UNITED STATES.

Prof. Melvin G. Clark, the noted telescope manufacturer, is dead at Cambridge, Mass.

The whipping-post has been introduced at Lexington, Ky., for the punishment of bicycle thieves.

Joseph Richardson, the eccentric millionaire, said to be worth $20,000,000 died at New York on Thursday.

The output of coal in the United States during the year 1896 was 190,639,959 tons, valued at $195,557,619.

The Universal Postal Congress just closed at Washington will hold its next sextennial conference in Rome in 1903.

A branch of the French-Canadian Organization Society was formed in Manchester, N. H., on Thursday, with the object of enabling French-Canadians to return to the Dominion.

Mr. John Lewis Smith is the patriarch of Methodism in Indiana, and has written, in his eighty-second year, a book of 450 pages, containing anecdotes of pioneer preachers and their charges in the West, together with a treatise on Indiana Methodism.

A Brooklyn, N. Y., man recently snored so hideously in a tenement house that a three-year-old child who heard the noise was frightened into convulsions, which ended fatally, and now the authorities want to know whether the man is criminally responsible for the child's death.

President McKinley has finished his note to Spain presenting the ultimatum of the United States on the Cuban question. The note alleges that Spain has lost control of Cuba, that Spain has failed and is impotent to protect the lives and property of American citizens, and that she has failed to comply with her treaty obligations.

Bishop Thompson, at the Diocese Council in Jackson, Mass., paid this tribute to the late Bishop A. Cleveland Coxe:—"For living, for genius, for pure lofty life, 'for plain living and high thinking,' for loyalty to the purest ideals, I venture to say no man in the history of our country ever excelled Bishop Coxe."

According to the reports of the New York commercial agencies there is an appreciable improvement in the general trade situation, a distinction which, while moderate, is decidedly marked. Favourable reports as to the wheat and cotton have exercised a beneficial influence, which has been added to by considerable buying of American necessities. There has been an increase of nearly six per cent. in the cotton acreage of all the States, but the cotton market is weaker. Some Southern cotton mills are limiting production. Some woollen mills are arranging for an enlarged output, and have purchased heavily. The boot and shoe industry is active, and orders are growing apace.

GENERAL.

The Czarina has given birth to a daughter.

It is officially declared that the bubonic plague exists in Jeddah.

Official statistics show a deficit of a million marks on the Baltic canal during the past year.

It is announced that the Turks have committed serious excesses in Epirus and in the vicinity of Larissa.

It is believed by many good judges at Athens that Greece may yet have to fight for her very existence.

The belief is generally entertained in Havana that Captain-General Weyler will be immediately recalled from Cuba.

Reports from Mexico City state that Oxaca and the isthmus of Tehuantepeo had earthquake shocks on Sunday lasting 40 seconds.

The Madrid Heraldo announces that negotiations for a treaty of commerce between Spain and the United States have reached an advanced stage.

The Czar and Czarina are understood to be greatly disappointed because their second child is also a daughter. She will be named Tatiana.

An attempt was made to assassinate President Faure at Paris while on his way to the races. A bomb was exploded close to his carriage.

The shareholders of the Suez Canal Company have decided to erect a heroic statue to the memory of the Count de Lesseps, the engineer of the canal.

An expedition is being fitted out to punish the turbulent natives who treacherously attacked a British force in the Tochi Valley, on the North Indian frontier.

Emperor William is earnestly pressing his naval scheme, and will not be satisfied until the German navy is on an equal footing with the French and Russian navies.

Herr Mauser, the inventor of the well-known rifle bearing his name, has submitted to the German War Office a new mechanism, that is applicable to pistols and carbines.

In the Davis will case at San Francisco, Cal., the other day it was shown that the ashes of the deceased millionaire are being held for debt, while heirs are wrangling over the property.

It is reported from Rome that the Judiciary Council, now considering the Bank of Naples scandals, has rejected Signor Crispi's demand to be tried by the Senate, and will direct that he be prosecuted.

The Hawaiian Government has refused to renew the concession to Z. S. Spalding for laying a cable from San Francisco to Honolulu, and it is thought the Hawaiian Islands may form a link in the Canadian-Australian system.

A Spanish Captain and two lieutenants were tried by court-martial in La Cabana fortress and sentenced to be shot for cowardice in having surrendered the Government forts at Cashorro, in eastern Cuba, to the rebels.

Dr. James Martineau, who the other day celebrated his ninety-second birthday, is one of the very few living authors whose literary activity dates from the beginning of the Victorian reign. Dr. Martineau published his first book, "The Rationale of Religious Enquiry," in 1837.

The Pope has sent to Queen Regent Christina of Spain a splendid rosary, consisting of a gold chain set alternately with diamonds, rubies, and emeralds as beads. The gift is accompanied by a letter conveying the Papal benediction and expressing admiration of her Majesty's courage and wisdom in the late Ministerial crisis.

DEATH OR MATRIMONY.

An Exciting Incident Which Turned a Bridegroom's Hair White.

The story of an unhappy bridegroom, whose hair grew gray in a single morning, and that the morning of his marriage, is reported in the Hungarian papers.

Mitru Popa, born in Teregova, son of a small farmer, and affianced to a daughter of a prosperous citizen of Zigrad, recently started for Zigrad, there to wed and bring home his bride. The place can be reached in two hours by the mountain road. There was, however, a short cut; it led through the railway tunnel, which was but a single line of rails. Popa laid ear to the ground and listened. As there was not the slightest vibration he took courage and ventured into the dark passage. Here, the report goes on, he had been stumbling along as best he could, when, after ten minutes passed in the total darkness, and being as he judged, near the centre of the tunnel, he heard the distant rumbling of an approaching train. The noise grew louder behind him, and Popa ran; louder still, and Popa raced! He could see a small point of daylight far off amid the darkness, and if he could reach it, it meant life, safety, and bride, but the thunder of the train grew even nearer. Fortunately, the gradient was a steep one, and the express was called express by courtesy only, and the race between the man and death terminated at the tunnel's outlet, the man winning by about his own length.

The mercifully sluggish "schnellzug" passed into the daylight as the bridegroom fell prostrate on the bank. When he had started he had dark brown hair; when he arrived at the bride's house it was white as the bride's veil. The lady, however, accepted him on the somewhat dubious grounds "that the hair would come all right in time, and that the injury was covered by insurance."

STOPPED THE CONFAB.

Be careful what you say over the line, Mrs. Brightly; you may be sure the telephone girl is listening.

Of course she is.

Indeed I'm not, yelled the hello maid, and the sizzling, crackling sound with which she broke the combination caused both of the women to run.

AS TO THEIR NUMBER.

Smythe—Those ultimatums of the Powers are singular things, aren't they?

Tompkins—I'll bet you the Sultan doesn't think so! By this time he must regard 'em as being almost as plural as his marriages.

HER CLEVER DEVICE.

Flossie didn't have to write much of a graduating essay.

Why not?

The title of it was so long.

What was it?

It was Whence Does the Human Soul Derive the Remarkable Power of Investing External Circumstances with the Lurid Hue of Its Own Feelings?

PRACTICAL FARMING.

THE ELEMENT OF UNCERTAINTY.

In the different industries of the farm, there is no one that demands so much close watch and minute observation as that of the dairy. In about every one of the different affairs of the farm, says John Gould, in Practical Farmer, there can be some sort "of shrewd guesswork." So much wood makes about so much fire; so many bushels of wheat make an average load; so much help, and so much machine ought to cut and put up so much hay per day, and so on through the list. When it comes to the dairy there is an uncertainty. A cow ought to give milk, and eat in proportion to her size, and so much milk from old brin ought to make so much butter, but in the management of the dairy there is an individualism that makes every cow accountable only to herself, and this finding out about this, makes dairying one of the fine arts, so to speak. It would seem that so much hay and grain, and so much cow ought to produce so much milk. The engineer says, "Here is a fifty-ton locomotive, there are ten tons of coal and 2,000 gallons of water, and that means that I can pull so many cars and so many tons of freight, so many miles." Can the man with a 1,000-pound cow say any such thing of her with certainty? No man can tell, by looking at the cow and estimating the feed, how many pounds of milk, of what per cent, fat, and how long she will hold out. The small cow often eats as much as the larger one, outmilks her and outclasses her in butter making. The engine can be built over, a new furnace put in, and economy secured with extra power added; but the cow is never built over. She stays with us either a paying producer or a boarder. As a boarder, she consumes the profits of the better cow. At the experiment stations interesting experiments are being carried on in regard to this difference in cows and their appropriation of food, as related to the milk supply. Charging pasturage at $1 per week, and hay, grain and silage at actual market rates, and crediting milk butter and cheese and whey at the going rates, it was found that with the herd—and it is to be supposed that these cows rate much above the average—the food fed to some cows returned three times the produce as did others. In one trial the food cost of a pound of butter was 8 1-2 cents a pound, and from another cow 18 1-2 cents, while the herd as a whole ranged between the 8 1-2 cents and about 18 cents for food cost of butter. Some cows fell many dollars short of paying for their feed; others paid a profit of $40. Sold as milk, the case would have been a little different, if a price of four cents a quart could be obtained. Then the poor cow for butter would have had $13 to her credit and the best one $89, and if made into cheese at 8 1-2 cents a pound, the best cow would have made a profit of over $40, and the poorest about a third as much. So it is seen that there are three points of view in this matter. A cow may be a poor butter cow, and if milk is sold by the quart, turn a fair profit, and if cheese is made, quite a different result follows, and the best butter cow runs her owner in debt in the milk market. Over all is this fact that the same food makes rich milk for one cow and thin for another, and it may take even more food to make the thin milk than the other. Cows shrink and dry off, let the food be what it may, and ten per cent. of them go to the shambles yearly, and which ones it will be, no man knoweth until the day thereof. Dairying is a lottery at best, but it is an affair in which each man loads and turns his own wheel; and makes his own drawings, securing the capital prize always, and a lot of minor drawings, besides. Oftentimes he in rating his cows without testing, and finding out for sure, confounds the minor drawing for the actual prize card ticket. Do you know which is your actually best cow?

HOW TO MILK KICKING COWS.

There is no question that cows can be confined with straps or ropes so that they cannot kick, several such devices having been described in this paper; but to tie up and untie a cow requires time, and time if not money, is a part of our lives. I have had some furious kickers, says a writer, but only one that I had to tie, and she was not a natural kicker at all, but had an obstructed teat which had to be probed, and she had a decided objection to having it operated upon. I can milk any kicking cow when tied in the stable by the head, or in a stanchion, no matter how strong she is, or how violent and determined she may be in her efforts to prevent me. My method is exceedingly simple, and is the same I use in breaking heifers. In the first place their heads are tied up short, so that they cannot surge ahead or back up. The pail is not placed directly under the cow but a little way out. I bend over, standing with my feet well braced, put my head in her groin, take a firm hold of her near hind teat with my left hand and hold on to it with a vise-like grip. I don't try to milk any with the left hand when the struggle is on, and she is straining every nerve to kick it loose in order to hit me or the pail. Finding that I can "hold the fort" she changes her tactics and tries to kick with her left foot, but of course cannot hit the pail or stop me from milking. After making three or four violent struggles, each one more furious that the one preceding it, her strength begins to fail, and she loses confidence in her ability to kick me loose and allows herself to be milked because she has found out she cannot prevent it.

Perhaps at the next milking she has regained confidence and will want to fight again; if so, there is no way but to accommodate her. Again defeated, she will probably stand as peaceably as any cow for a month or maybe longer, when another fit of delirium conniptions will come on, and there will have to be another trial of strength and power of endurance. The principle is the same made use of by Rarey, Gleason and other noted horse trainers. In a single-handed contest the animal is made to exhaust its strength without accomplishing its object of becoming master, and yields to the superior power and intelligence of man. After a kicking cow has been once subdued she need not be tied up short, and the milker can milk her sitting on a stool the same as any cow. In breaking a heifer, or milking a kicking cow, I never strike or kick her or use any violence except to milk her in spite of all she can do.

Last summer one of my best cows cut one of her teats in stepping over a barbed wire. A tree had blown down across the fence and the cows all came out of the pasture. This one did not go to the lowest place where the others did, and cut one teat very badly. As she was in full flow of milk, the teat had to be milked; but as it was very sore and painful she did not want it touched, and kicked furiously when I took hold of it. I had to milk it by force as already described, and after she was conquered she would stand and quiver with pain while the wounded teat was being milked. Unless a kicking cow is a very good one for milk it does not pay to bother with them. They will bring all they are worth for beef.

DON'T RAISE SCRUB STOCK.

Scrub stock is a luxury that the business farmer can not afford because he must know that every animal will pay its way, and pay a profit on the feed and care; they must have early maturity and superior quality. The wealthy business men who are ambitious to have a farm and stock can not afford to keep any scrub stock, but get the best pure-bred stock, which is cheap enough now for every farmer to buy. Yet thousands of farmers are breeding, raising and wasting feed on scrub stock that millionaire farmers can not afford, and will not tolerate these scrubs that eat more and sell for half what high grades do. Look at the market and you see 10 per cent of the cattle and horses sell for double the price the nine-tenths sell for. Yet these farmers complain that cattle and horses do not pay. Cattle at 5 cents and 6 cents do pay, and horses at $150 to $200 pay well to raise, and the markets are more eager to buy at the high prices all the high-class stock that is for sale.

ROYAL BRIDESMAIDS.

It may be of interest at the present time to give an account of the twelve ladies who attended the bride who has now been "sixty years a Queen." It is usual when a Royal Princess marries that her attendant bridesmaids are chosen from the daughters of dukes, marquises, and earls, and it was so when the Queen married. Nine of those ladies have now been removed by the hand of death, the grave having only recently closed over the remains of one of the two dukes' daughters who attended the youthful Queen to the altar, Lady Mary Charlotte Howard, elder daughter of Henry, thirteenth Duke of Norfolk, by his wife, Lady Charlotte Leveson-Gower, daughter of the Duke of Sutherland. It would have been impossible to have chosen a bridesmaid of higher birth or of greater beauty than Lady Mary Howard who, nine years after the Queen's marriage, espoused Thomas, fourth Lord Foley, and who lately breathed her last at the town house in Audley square. Lady Caroline Lennox, the daughter of the Duke of Richmond, married, as his second wife, also nine years after the Queen, John, fifth Lord Bessborough. She died in 1890. Lady Adelaide Paget, daughter of the first Marquise of Anglesey, married, in 1851, Mr. Frederick Cadogan, and died in 1890.

Lady Sarah Villiers was the eldest daughter of George, fifth Lord Jersey, by his wife, Lady Sarah Fane, eldest daughter of John, tenth Lord Westmoreland, who married Anne, daughter and sole heir of Mr. Child, the millionaire banker, of Osterley Park. Lady Sarah married, in 1842, Prince Nicholas Esterhazy, eldest son of the famous Prince Paul Esterhazy. She died in 1853. Lady Fanny Cowper, perhaps the most beautiful of all the bridesmaids, was the youngest daughter of the fifth Lord Cowper and step-daughter of Lord Palmerston. Lady Fanny married, in 1841, Lord Jocelyn, who died in 1854. She had four children, who all predeceased her. Lady Jocelyn died in 1880. Lady Mary Grimston was the third daughter of the first Earl of Verulam, and married, the same year as the Queen, the fourth Lord Radnor. Lady Radnor died in 1879. Lady Eleanora Paget was the elder daughter of Lord Uxbridge, afterwards second Lord Anglesey. Lady Eleanora married, in 1847, Sir Sanford Graham, and died the following year. Lady Elizabeth Howard was the fifth daughter of the sixth Lord Carlisle, by his wife, Georgina, daughter of the fifth Duke of Devenshire. Lady Elizabeth married, the same year as the Queen, the Rev. the Hon. Francis Greg, rector of Morpeth. Lady Elizabeth died in 1891. Lady Jane Bouverie was the third daughter of the third Lord Radnor. She married, in 1847, Mr. William Ellice. Lady Ida Hay was the eldest daughter of the seventeenth Lord Erroll, by his wife, Lady Elizabeth Fitzclarence, daughter of his Majesty William IV., and aunt by marriage of H.R.H. the Duchess of Fife. Lady Ira married, in 1841, the second Lord Gainsborough, and died in 1867. The other two bridesmaids attained the highest rank in the peerage. Lady Elizabeth West was the eldest daughter of the fifth Lord Delawarr. She married, in 1844, Mr. Hastings Russell, afterwards Duke of Bedford. Her Grace has been Mistress of the Robes. Lady Catherine Wilhelmina Stanhope was the only daughter of the forth Lord Stanhope, and married, in 1843, Lord Dalmeny, who died in 1851, and by whom she had, with other issue, the present Lord Rosebery. Lady Dalmeny married, in 1854, Lord Harry Vane, who eventually became fourth and last Duke of Cleveland. The Duchess of Cleveland is the youngest of all duchesses, except in point of age, and is one of the only three survivors of the Queen's twelve bridesmaids, the other two being the Duchess Dowager of Bedford and Lady Jane Ellice.