

The Mad Czar.

Paul I. was known among his subjects to the universe, as the Mad Czar. It is the policy of Count Palen, his favorite, to make his master appear as insane as possible; he encouraged him in his vagaries, and never was a man more uncertain, capricious, possessed alternately by the gods and the angels; in one moment he was found consoling, without any obvious cause, the noblest of his subjects to exile; the next you might see him with tears in his eyes benignly bending to the wretched soldier in the military uniform. As the years went on these latter traits of tenderness became fewer; he grew more suspicious, bitter, and restless, the unhappy man in his vast empire. Shortly after Paul's accession to the throne he arrogated to himself omniscience and infallibility. He could not be deceived or misled. He could not be mistaken. By intuition he detected the sins and thoughts of his subjects, who, indeed, found it lucrative to state their designs against the state on their sacred desks could not hide them from Paul, occasionally inventing misdeeds when they were at a pin for real cause. The plea of ignorance of any crime of which the Czar charged you heard the Emperor in infallibility fitted Paul to act with authority in all departments of life and thought. Theology, war, man-millinery, philology, church ritual, etiquette, military, architecture, education, felt in the touch of his reforming hand. By a pure reading matter he evangelized the lapsid masses of Russia in a day, filling the churches with preachers, and the convents with nuns whose devotion and remorse were inspired by visions of the knout; the local archbishops were instructed to march the reputations of their districts to church in procession between two rows of soldiers. The issue of an imperial decree forbidding wearing of round hats, frock coats, vests and breeches, and pantaloons were supplied to be a means of gratifying a grudge against the Englishmen. His aversion to round hats seems to have been congenital. It was more expedient than the purchase of garments should be proscribed than the tranquility of a czar should be disturbed. The sudden apparition of

the Right Railway. The Right Railway, on the Lake of Lucerne may be referred to as a marvel of railway enterprise. To make a line to the summit of a mountain, 5000 feet high, could certainly have been no ordinary undertaking. This railway was opened in the year 1871. The terminus being at Vitznau, also the point of landing for steamers. The railway goes in an almost continuous and direct line five miles long, not as might be imagined by a zigzag route up the mountain, the view of the surrounding country extending in interest as the height increases. The route includes an inclined tunnel, 325 feet long, and a girder bridge across the Schornobel Gorge. An extension of four miles from Kaltbad has been added to the original line, proceeding along the ridge of the mountain, 5230 feet above the level of the sea. The line, which is a single one with a five feet gauge, consists of three rails; the centre one is fitted with cogwheels. In other words, the middle rail is a ladder up which the engine climbs by means of cogwheels fitted below the floor. The engine has a very remarkable appearance, resembling very much a huge black bottle, and when on level ground it leans on one side as if about to fall. When ascending the incline the engine assumes an upright position. Only one carriage is attached; this is ten feet wide and somewhat resembles our tramway cars. There are nine seats placed transversely, arranged to accommodate fifty-four passengers. In ascending, the carriage is propelled instead of being drawn, but in the descent the locomotive precedes the carriage, and acts as a powerful brake. The train proceeds at a rate of about eight miles an hour. Great care is necessary to ensure the road being kept in order, hence each mile of the line is under the superintendence of a man whose sole duty is to precede the trains and remove obstructions. The Right has been described as a mass of pudding, with millions of stones for plums; the danger is lest any of these stones should accidentally get into such a position as to prevent the proper working of the cog-wheel on the engine. A journey of this railway is looked upon by many as quite an adventure. Timid folk are advised to sit in the middle of a seat, so as to avoid the sight of the gulf and precipices over which the line runs.

Science. Sheet metal has been recently patented. Sheet metal sides are bent under pressure to the required shape, having flanges on their lower edges for riveting to the keel-bar, and the stern ends may be joined either with or without stem-plates. The bent plates forming the boats sides may be packed in small space for transportation, and easily put together on reaching their destination, the design being to so construct boats lighter than of wood or of numerous plates of metal riveted together. Skirmishers. Skirmishers are troops who, not being intended for close combat, are employed to cover those who are so intended. They are independent of the attacking troops, whose front they cover, and may be at any number of spaces interval without deranging the attacking troops in their rear, behind whom they may rally after they have played their part. The object of employing skirmishers has been to oblige the enemy to show his hand, and to cover the advance of the line of battle in their rear by attracting the attention and fire of the enemy. And the rapid fire of breech loaders has immensely increased the value of "skirmishers," both in attracting the attention of the defenders and in veiling by its smoke the march of the line of battle behind them. By our drill regulations "scouts" seem to be intended as a sort of substitute for "skirmishers," which on the scale of 10 or 12 to cover a battalion front, they cannot be. The German teaching—that men once engaged can never be withdrawn—does not apply to "skirmishers," but to the first fighting line of the attacking troops; respecting whom they say is true. During the Peninsula war neither the French nor ourselves ever ventured to engage without covering the front of the attacking troops with skirmishers, and the argument in favor of that practice is greatly strengthened by the conditions of breech-loading fire. It seems to follow, therefore, that troops destined to attack, whether formed in one closed line as of old, or in four open lines, should always be preceded by skirmishers in the old sense of the term. And this once established, we believe it would be found that the loss suffered by a closed line during its advance under fire would not be greater than that of a system, as now practiced, of open lines backed by small columns of reserve. And the closed line would possess the immense advantage of preserving the different company and wing commands unmixed.—Blackwood Magazine. Another Reading. A recent Biblical scholar writes as follows:—Perhaps not one of the events recorded in Scripture has given rise to more fruitless controversy than the alleged act of Joshua commanding the sun and the moon "to stand still." In the memorable route of the five Kings, and that those bodies obeyed him. Did this miracle occur in the way the ordinary translation reads and as the most of the orthodox believe it did? An able writer in the Church Quarterly Review endeavored, with a high degree of probability, to maintain that what the Israelitish leader prayed for was not that the sun and moon might "stand still," but that they might "be silent"—that is to say, "come to sleep."—The sun shined on the Hebrew host but it is a storm of hailstones was the principal cause of the defeat of the five Kings. Joshua's fame that the sun and moon stood still, is a very ancient tradition, but it is removed by a simple explanation.

The Vapor of Tobacco Juice has been tested with success as an insect destroyer in hot-houses. The tobacco is soaked or boiled and placed in an open dish over a fire or flame of a lamp in the conservatory. Delicate plants are not injured as by tobacco smoke; the atmosphere is innocuous; thrips, scales and slugs are effectually disposed of. One quart of tobacco juice, evaporated in a house containing 350 cubic feet, suffices. If it is true, as Dr. T. Stephenson asserts in Guy's Hospital Reports, that water does, under certain conditions, act energetically upon zinc and galvanized iron, a simple test for the presence of zinc will be useful. Dr. Stephenson adds to the clear water, slightly acidulated with hydrochloric acid, a little ferricyanide of potassium (yellow prussiate), when, if zinc is present, a whitish cloud immediately forms. Sheet-metal boats have recently been patented. Sheet-metal sides are bent under pressure to the required shape, having flanges on their lower edges for riveting to the keel-bar, and the stern ends may be joined either with or without stem-plates. The bent plates forming the boats sides may be packed in small space for transportation, and easily put together on reaching their destination, the design being to so construct boats lighter than of wood or of numerous plates of metal riveted together. Skirmishers. Skirmishers are troops who, not being intended for close combat, are employed to cover those who are so intended. They are independent of the attacking troops, whose front they cover, and may be at any number of spaces interval without deranging the attacking troops in their rear, behind whom they may rally after they have played their part. The object of employing skirmishers has been to oblige the enemy to show his hand, and to cover the advance of the line of battle in their rear by attracting the attention and fire of the enemy. And the rapid fire of breech loaders has immensely increased the value of "skirmishers," both in attracting the attention of the defenders and in veiling by its smoke the march of the line of battle behind them. By our drill regulations "scouts" seem to be intended as a sort of substitute for "skirmishers," which on the scale of 10 or 12 to cover a battalion front, they cannot be. The German teaching—that men once engaged can never be withdrawn—does not apply to "skirmishers," but to the first fighting line of the attacking troops; respecting whom they say is true. During the Peninsula war neither the French nor ourselves ever ventured to engage without covering the front of the attacking troops with skirmishers, and the argument in favor of that practice is greatly strengthened by the conditions of breech-loading fire. It seems to follow, therefore, that troops destined to attack, whether formed in one closed line as of old, or in four open lines, should always be preceded by skirmishers in the old sense of the term. And this once established, we believe it would be found that the loss suffered by a closed line during its advance under fire would not be greater than that of a system, as now practiced, of open lines backed by small columns of reserve. And the closed line would possess the immense advantage of preserving the different company and wing commands unmixed.—Blackwood Magazine. Another Reading. A recent Biblical scholar writes as follows:—Perhaps not one of the events recorded in Scripture has given rise to more fruitless controversy than the alleged act of Joshua commanding the sun and the moon "to stand still." In the memorable route of the five Kings, and that those bodies obeyed him. Did this miracle occur in the way the ordinary translation reads and as the most of the orthodox believe it did? An able writer in the Church Quarterly Review endeavored, with a high degree of probability, to maintain that what the Israelitish leader prayed for was not that the sun and moon might "stand still," but that they might "be silent"—that is to say, "come to sleep."—The sun shined on the Hebrew host but it is a storm of hailstones was the principal cause of the defeat of the five Kings. Joshua's fame that the sun and moon stood still, is a very ancient tradition, but it is removed by a simple explanation.

For Leisure Hour. The author, Mr. Brocke St. Toronto, "Mrs Clarke's Cookbook," systematic, intelligible, and readily at hand; agents; sample copy; \$10 to \$20 per week by selling this best in the world. Working glass, which, when used, may be wiped clean, can never be broken. A new book on "The History of the Jews," by Dr. Jones, a splendid Blood Purifier. For Neuralgia. The most common cause of neuralgia is an inflammation of the nerves, which is generally due to a cold or other ailment. Dr. Jones' "Neuralgia Remedy" is a perfect cure for this and other ailments. The absurdity of the deep mourning for the death of a man who has lived so long, is a subject of great interest. "Ani can so long live?" is a question that has been asked of many a man. The method of harnessing lightning is a subject of great interest. The new apparatus invented by Dr. Jones is a perfect cure for lightning strikes. The new apparatus is a perfect cure for lightning strikes. The new apparatus is a perfect cure for lightning strikes.