

Some of the Belgian newspapers have been bitterly opposed to their country's taking the Congo Free State under its protection, many of their remarks are hysterical and inaccurate; but they cordially unite in their position, which is worth noticing, because it belies the genius and destiny of the human race. They say, in substance, that tropical Africa was never made for civilized men; and that, though nations should bankrupt themselves in the effort to reclaim it, the region will never yield benefits commensurate with the men and money it will cost. How do they know that this is true? He is a wise man indeed who is able to assign limits to human enterprise. What prophet among us can foretell the changes that human ingenuity and art may yet effect on this globe?

A large part of our business to-day is to fit this world more perfectly for human use as a habitation. That is the reason why we dig Suez and Baltic canals, lay cables under the ocean, build railroads over the mountains, and irrigate the desert till it blossoms like the rose. By long experiment and study we have greatly improved the methods and accelerated the processes of taming wild nature. Two centuries elapsed before Europe began to turn America to much account; but a single century after Australia drew the world's notice, saw the full flower of civilization blooming there. The most of Africa is the discovery of the past half century, and we know far more of that great continent in all its aspects to-day than was known of America three hundred years after Christopher Columbus had discovered it. Are these critics aware that one of the great problems of the age is how to turn the tropical regions to best account for all mankind, and that enormous progress is making toward its solution? If the mortality statistics of the white race within the tropics prove anything, they show that we are learning to carry on our enterprises there, of every sort, under our own supervision and without undue imperilment of life.

In British India, for instance, the annual death rate among Europeans was 84 to the thousand in the early part of this century, but in 1890 it was reduced to 16 to the thousand. In the Dutch East Indies the European mortality in 1828 was 170 to the thousand; twenty years later it was 60; in 1868 it was 30, and in 1892, 16, much less than the native death rate, which then reached 23 to the thousand. In the Congo basin, which is so much decried by some of our Belgian friends, the death rate among white men in 1893 was 70 to the thousand, but this included many men who were campaigning in the field, deprived of almost every comfort and convenience. At settlements like Boma and Leopoldville, where the pioneers live in houses, under fairly good sanitary and alimentary conditions, the death rate, in the same year, was 32 to the thousand. In Algeria the death rate among the whites dropped from 77 to the thousand in 1848 to 11 in 1893; and in the Antilles, from 91 to 18. It is a very poor use of time and energy to argue that there is a single square mile of the earth's surface which man will not some day, turn to his own advantage.

**The Blessing of Fame.**

Old Bondi—Huh! You'd like to marry my daughter, eh? What business are you engaged in, may I ask?  
 Young Odistle—No business, sir. I am infinitely above-sold trade, sir. I am a poet.  
 Yes, so I have heard. Merely a poet.  
 Merely, sir? My poems, sir, have brought me fame.  
 Yes, so I have been told. Fame, eh? And what amount of income does that fame represent?  
 Well, sir, I have paid my board bills as they came due, and I owe for only one suit of clothes, the one I have on.  
 Exactly. Just what I expected. Now, what good has your fame done you? Answer me that.  
 It made me acquainted with your daughter, sir. If it had not been for my fame we never would have met, and if we had not met she never would have promised to marry me, willy nilly, by hook or by crook, whether you consented or not.  
 Um—ahem—well, I consent.

**Small Soldiers.**

The Venezuelan people are of short stature. A British functionary who was recently captured by a body of Venezuelan troops has sent an account of the incident to the Pall Mall Budget, in which he says: "You can imagine my feeling when, looking down from my height of 6 feet on some of the Venezuelan looters about 4 feet in height, I saw them puffing away at my cigars, while I, myself, could not get one of them to smoke."

**English Coppers.**

A new issue of copper coinage is being made in England to bring out Queen Victoria's title of Empress of India. The reverse is the same as on the old coins, the figure of Britannia seated, but the obverse is a new head of the Queen, with the inscription Victoria Dei Gra. Britt. Regina Fid. Def. Ind. Imp., "by the Grace of God, Queen of the Britains, defender of the faith, Empress of India." The inscription is already on the gold and silver coins.

**THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL**

**THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.**

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

**CANADA.**

During May 768 immigrants arrived at Winnipeg.

Friends of John R. Hooper are petitioning for his release.

Hamilton firemen ask for an increase of \$5 a month in their salaries.

The taxes of the County of Middlesex this year will amount to \$70,368.

An operation for the purpose of removing a tumor will be performed on Mayor Stewart of Hamilton.

A beaver dam has been discovered in the line of the projected Hudson Bay road, north of Gladstone.

Hamilton has received a tender from the Electric Light Company to light the city at \$91.25 per lamp per year.

The postal authorities intend taking action against a number of small traders in Winnipeg who retail postage stamps.

The offer of the county to sell the jail building to Hamilton City for \$40,000 was refused and a new jail will probably be built.

Mr. F. R. Alley, a well-known real estate man, and promoter of Amherst Park, has entered an action for \$500,000 against the Montreal Street Railway.

The distribution of seeds at the Experimental farm, which closed on May 31st, was enormous. The total number of applications was 31,145. Of these 26,033 have been supplied.

The station agents along the lines of the Canadian Pacific railway and Northern Pacific railway report in very encouraging terms as to the crop prospects in Manitoba and the Territories.

The memorial monument to De Maisonneuve, the founder of Montreal, will be unveiled in that city on Dominion day. The Governor-General has been invited to perform the ceremony.

An inquest was held on the body of an infant found dead at Hamilton. The verdict was death from neglect and starvation, but the jury could not decide whether the child was alive or not when left on the mountain side.

It is officially announced that the benchers in convocation have struck off the roll of barristers the name of William Middleton Hall, who was mixed up in the Toronto civic boodling investigation.

Mr. S. A. McCaw, Manager of the Lake of the Woods Milling Company, is authority for the statement that the Manitoba wheat crop, as it appears at present, is the best ever seen in the country.

The City Council of Vancouver, B. C., on Monday evening suspended the Chief of Police and the License Inspector as a result of the evidence given before the Police Committee, which is now investigating into the working of the police force.

Jacob Barquie, a Russian Hebrew was arrested in Toronto on Friday night, charged with passing a forged cheque. When the detective arrested him, he endeavored to cut his throat with a pocket-knife, Barquie's wound is not dangerous.

In the Militia General Orders just issued, permission is granted to the Royal Scots, of Montreal, to wear the "red hackle" in their feather bonnets. It has been supposed that this honor is the peculiar distinction of the famous "Black Watch," upon whom it was bestowed for special services in the field.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**

There has been a marked improvement in Mr. Gladstone's health.

William O'Brien has issued a farewell address to the electors of Cork City.

The Duke and Duchess of York have received an invitation to visit Australia next winter.

Eighteen thousand troops took part in the review at Aldershot in honor of the visit of Nasrulla Khan.

Maharajah Abubakar, Sultan of Johore, who recently arrived in London on a visit, died on Tuesday evening.

Herbert Spencer, recently appointed by Emperor William a Knight of the Order of Merit, has declined the proffered honor.

Dr. Murray of Edinburgh, promises to send the published report of the Challenger expedition, 50 volumes, as a gift to the London Public Library.

Nasrulla Khan and his suite attended religious services in the Mohammedan mosque at Woking on Tuesday in honor of the Moslem feast of Bairam.

The Mayor of Southampton gave a luncheon in honor of the officers of the United States and Italian warships in the Southampton waters.

It is reported in London that Oscar Wilde, who was recently sentenced to two years' imprisonment in Pentonville prison at hard labor, has become insane, and is confined in a padded room of the prison.

The London Daily News of Thursday had an article asking why the President of a Republic cannot go abroad, and suggesting that if the Presidents of France and the United States were to visit England it would tend to increase the friendly feeling between the respective countries.

Thomas Don, son of a farmer living at Crieff, was arrested on his way to Balmoral to obtain an interview with the Queen. He had in his pocket a paper headed "To the Queen," and a letter addressed to Mr. Gladstone, in which the writer said he was about to become King of Britain. Six chambers of his revolver were loaded, and he had besides 50 cartridges in a bag.

Miss Eliza Wesley, for forty years organist of St. Margaret Puffens, Rood lane, London, has just died. She was the granddaughter of Charles Wesley, the hymn writer, and daughter of the composer of the Cathedral Service in F. She was educated as a musician by her father and was a lady of many accomplishments. Mendelssohn, Brahms, the poet Rogers, Dean Milman, and many others celebrities of the early Victorian period were among her friends.

**UNITED STATES.**

Governor Morton has signed the bill making the term of imprisonment for arson in the first degree forty years.

School teachers professing the Roman Catholic religion have been barred out of the public schools in Kansas City, Kansas.

Archbishop Kenrick, of St. Louis, Mo., has been deposed by the Pope, and the Most Rev. John J. Kain has been appointed in his stead.

An explosion of dynamite occurred on a steam drill at Erie, Pa. Capt. Lathrop and Driller Harritty were torn to pieces and four others badly hurt.

It is stated that the United States Government has decided to make a thorough investigation into the Colima disaster, which cost so many lives.

Professor William Gardner Hale, head professor of Latin in the University of Chicago, is to be director of the new American School of Classics in Rome for a year.

Mr. G. P. Lounsbury, a graduate of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, and assistant entomologist of the Hatch Experiment station, under Prof. C. H. Fernald, has received a call to Cape Town, South Africa, as Government entomologist.

The new national headquarters of the Salvation Army at New York was dedicated by the leading officers of the army. The new building has been erected at a cost of \$150,000.

Burglars on Monday night entered the vault of the State Treasury in Concord, N. H., and stole six thousand dollars. The burglars carried away the key of the vault, and it could not be opened till Tuesday night.

Bishop Doane, one of the State University regents, in an address to a graduating class at St. Agnes' School in Albany on Thursday, denounced the movement in favour of woman suffrage in a very vigorous manner. He believed that conferring the franchise on woman would corrupt her moral nature and imperil the existence of the nation.

Telegraphic intelligence from the United States quite confirms previous advices, and add that the satisfactory statements of growing confidence and business are everywhere becoming more general and decided. In fact the augmented movement is assuming here and there the aspect of a boom, and a few superconservative people even think that the pace towards greater prosperity is being made too fast to maintain. An average of the advices received, however, indicate a steady, not a spasmodic, revival of trade all over the United States, not in a few industries but in all. Wheat is maintaining its advance, cotton is going up in price, wool sales are larger than for a long time past, iron is quoted better, hides are firmer, and leather is very strong. Labour is in better demand, money is plentiful and easy, speculation is rife, and wages are advancing. All round the outlook is a satisfactory one.

**GENERAL.**

The Austrian estimates contain an item of 20,000,000 florins for repeating rifles.

It is thought probable that the troubles at Jeddah will culminate in a general Bedouin revolt.

The Dax and Pau Districts of France are flooded by heavy rainstorms and overflowing streams.

Paris bankers have concluded a Chinese 4 per cent. gold loan of £16,000,000 guaranteed by Russia.

The Government of Morocco declines to guarantee the safety of travellers, and foreigners going into the interior are warned of this state of affairs.

The International Miners' Convention, meeting at Paris, has adopted a resolution declaring in favor of an eight-hour day.

M. Andree of Stockholm, will shortly go to Paris to oversee the making of the balloon in which he will attempt to reach the north pole.

Germans have stormed four forts belonging to the rebellious Bakoka tribes, on the lower Sasage River. Two hundred natives were killed and many wounded.

The Spanish Government has announced its intention of sending ten additional battalions of infantry to Cuba without delay to assist in quelling the insurrection.

The Dowager Empress of Russia has summoned Prof. Leyden, of Berlin, the eminent specialist on pulmonary complaints, to examine her son, the Grand Duke George.

Very favorable advices have been received in St. Petersburg regarding the prospects of a definite settlement of the questions remaining in dispute between the powers and Japan.

Rioters have destroyed the French Catholic and the English and American Protestant missions at Chengtu Szechuan. The missionaries were given a safe refuge by the native officials.

The Turkish Government has promised the representatives of the powers that full satisfaction will be given for the outrageous behaviour of the Turkish gendarmes at Moosh.

In the presence of a typical gathering of students of all the German universities on Saturday the foundation of a monument of Prince Bismarck as a student was laid at Andelsburg, near Kosen.

There was a tremendous cloud-burst over the Wurtemberg portion of the Black Forest on Wednesday. Many houses were swept away. Thirty-two persons were drowned, and nine are missing.

The Republic of Formosa has collapsed, its President has escaped from the island, and the foreign residents there are in safety. The native and Chinese soldiers, however, are said to be looting in all directions.

Advices received in Paris from Antananarivo, Island of Madagascar, say that the French advance into the interior has been repulsed, and that the mortality among the invading troops from fever is increasing.

The Duke of Anhalt, Germany, celebrated his birthday recently by establishing a decoration for working men. Every labourer in his dominions who has been twenty-five years in the employ of the same person or firm is to get a silver medal.

**He Comes After You.**

Etiens—Is it correct to precede the father of your fiancée downstairs?  
 Guzziens—Very often you have to.

**IT CALMS SHYING HORSES.**

**A Magic Nose Bit Patented by a Humane Inventor.**

A really remarkable device for making any shying horse perfectly calm and tractable is the new invention of Henry Small, of Hartford, Conn. Properly speaking it is not a "bit," for it does not go into the horse's mouth at all, but is only a simple



nose-piece that goes over the horse's upper lip, but does not necessarily draw on or even scarcely touch it unless the driver has a gentle pull on it; then it touches the end of the animal's nose or upper lip; and that mere touch, which should not be increased much, does the whole business.

Mr. Small's contrivance consists of a simple head strap, properly braced and coming down between the horse's eyes and nostrils, to its end in the shape of a sort of little metallic upper lip. This latter little piece of metal, only about two inches long and not half an inch wide, is humorously called a "trolley bit." Its curving side-ends, like an ordinary bit, are so devised that a very slight, gentle pull on the reins brings the "trolley bit" against the tip of the horse's nose.

In complete absorption in the study of a new experience the horse may be driven right up the side of a noisy locomotive, or of a gong-banging trolley car, that presents to the horse, under ordinary circumstances, the sinister aspect of a moving, perhaps a living thing, going without any visible means of compulsion; and in his strait attention to the new sensation at the tip of his nose he will take no notice of the car or of the locomotive. The queerest thing of all is the fact that no amount of use or familiarity with the nose-toucher arrangement seems to lessen the horse's interest in it.

**IMPURE AIR AND INEBRIETY.**

**Some Rather Remarkable Cases Cited by a Physician.**

"A case was reported to me," says Dr. T. D. Crothers, "by an eminent New York physician, of a merchant who tried to abstain from all use of spirits at home without success. He worked steadily in his office and lived in a rich house up town, where, apparently, every condition of healthy living was present. After several ineffectual efforts to give up all use of spirits, he went out camping in the White Mountain region. In a few days all taste for the spirits left him, and for the first time in twenty years he became a total abstainer. "On return to the city he drank again and could not stop. The next season he moved out in the country, and all taste for spirits left him. Finally, he gave up his city residence, and lived out in the country, coming to the city for a few hours at a time, and has become a total abstainer, not having any taste or desire for spirits. It seems most rational to suppose that poisoned air and defective ventilation were the exciting causes of the drink craze in this case. No other condition of surroundings and living could explain his ability to stop drinking in the country and not in the city.

Another incident, well verified, seemed to bring out the same fact: A delicate, nervous child of 6 years, supposed to be inclined to consumption, was guarded with extraordinary care against colds and the open air, in a rich city home. At 15 years of age a strong taste for spirits developed and at 20 he was an inebriate. His mother died and he was forced to go into the country to live. He became a total abstainer at once and is now, at 26 years, a strong temperance man. It would appear that in this case some condition of cell and tissue starvation began from defective aeration and continued until the surroundings changed.

I think the poison from the defective oxidation of the blood, together with imperfect elimination of waste products, is a very active factor in inebriety. In all rational treatment efforts to remove these possible causes should precede all other means of treatment. The continual inhalation of impure and defective air is always followed by the accumulation of poisons which, in many ways unknown, cause reflex nerve disturbances and reactions. The heart contracts more frequently, respiration is accelerated and elaboration of nutritive material is altered in all the cells of the body. Fatigue, depression and lowered vitality follow. Alcohol at this time is a grateful narcotic, which not only conceals the real condition, but brings increased degeneration with new bacteria formations and diminished resistance to disease. The brain and nervous system suffers as much as any other part of the body, although this is not recognized.

**Time for Reflection.**

Kitty—Jack says he will stop drinking if I will marry him.  
 Janet—Well, be careful, my dear. It's easier for him to begin again than it is for you to get unmarried.

**EARLY PRINTING IN ENGLAND.**

**The Pioneers of Typography—Was Caxton the First English Printer?**

An interesting contribution to the early history of English printing is made by Mr. W. H. Allnutt in the latest number of Bibliographica. To this magazine Mr. Allnutt sends a brief review of the early provincial printing press in England which suggests a possible change in the records of printing, and at all events shows how rapid was the spread of the new art in that country.

The first press established in England outside of London was in Oxford, then as now a university town. The date when it was first used opens an interesting question in the general history of printing. The first book issued was "Expositio in Simbolo Apostolorum." The colophon, or inscription at the end of this first book bears plainly the date M.cccc.lxviii (1468). This is accepted generally by bibliographers as a misprint for 1478; but if it is correct it means that William Caxton was not the first English printer, inasmuch as he did not set up his press in Westminster until 1476-77. Assuming that the date of the Oxford book is incorrect, and that 1478 is right, it shows that the university town was not far behind the English capital. The name of the Oxford printer is not known certainly; but Mr. Allnutt considers it possible that he was Theodoric Rood of Cologne.

St. Albans followed Oxford; for in 1480 "one sometyme scolemayster of Saynt Albons" published the "Elegancie" of Augustinus Dathus. The press was in operation for six years; it ceased its work in 1486, the same year that the Oxford press did so, and its last book was the famous

**"BOKE OF ST. ALBANS"**

to which Dame Juliana Berners contributed an essay on hunting, which has given her the credit of being the author of the entire book.

York, the seat of the northern Archbishopric, received as a freeman in 1497 one Frederick Freez, described some years later as a "buke-ptynter;" but the first book known to have been printed in the old capital of Britain was a "Directorium Sacerdotum," printed in 1509 by Hugo Goez, whose press was in Steengate street. Urayn Milner and Robert Whittington, the latter printing in Blake street, published books in York in 1516.

After a silence of thirty-one years, Oxford was honored with a second press in 1517; it issued books for two years, under the direction of John Scolar and Charles Kyrforth, and as the books bear the university arms, it is possible that the press was the first "university press" recorded.

Cambridge, the rival of Oxford, had no printing press until 1521, when John Sibergh set up one in the city. He maintained it for two years, issuing nine books. Erasmus, writing on Christmas day, 1525, from Basel to Robert Aldrich, afterward Bishop of Carlisle, is quoted by Mr. Allnutt as saying: "Saluta mihi veteres sodales \* \* \* Nicolaum et Ioannem Siburgum bibliopolas" ("Remember me to my old chums Nicholas and John Siburg, the book-sellers").

The monastery of Tavistock printed a book in 1525. "Dan Thomas Rychard, Monke of the Sayd Monastery," being the printer; and in 1534 it issued a second book. The first was "The Boke of Comfort, called in laten Boetius de consolatione Philosophie;" the second contained the statutes of the stannary, or the charters of the tinnars in Devonshire. In 1528 the abbey of Abingdon was honored by John Scolar's press from Oxford; which was set up there long enough to print a breviary for the monks of the house; and in 1534 the St. Albans press again began to print. The "Scolemayster" had gone, and John Herford was master of it.

**THE MONASTERY PRESS**

during most of the four years that it was active. Six books were issued from it, all of them in English.

Bristol, in the west of England, is said to have had a printing press in 1546; but no book or tract bearing a Bristol imprint approaching this date is known. In 1534 Reginald Oliver sold books in Ipswich, where not very long before Cardinal Wolsey had founded a school; but no press existed there until 1547, when no fewer than three printers were at work. They were Anthony Scoloker, John Overton, and John Oswen. The first and the last named printed in English books by Luther, Melancthon, Calvin, and other reformers, and must have been busy, as they left Ipswich in 1548. Oswen went to Worcester, where he had a monopoly of printing religious books for Wales, and there, between 1548 and 1553, he printed three additions of the Bible, and four editions of the "Boke of Common Praier," and seventeen other religious and admonitory books.

John Mychell printed Protestant as well as Roman Catholic books at Canterbury between 1549 and 1556, in which latter year he went to London.

On May 4, 1550, Queen Mary granted a charter to the still existing Stationers' Company, which gave to it and to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge a practical monopoly of all printing in England. After the grant of this charter printers had to be freemen of London and members of the company. In consequence, the provincial press of England became silent; and for many years no legitimate publications issued from what had had so promising a beginning.

**Lively Expectation.**

A little boy of five years, who was very fond of stewed mushrooms, and who had the idea—which is commoner than it ought to be—that mushrooms are the work of toads, was found sitting on the lawn with his eyes fixed intently on the ground.

What are you watching? his mother inquired.  
 The little fellow raised his finger to ensure silence.

Sh! he said, I saw a toad hop along here, and I'm waiting to see a brushroom spring up.

**Hardly True.**

Father—My son, no man ever accomplished much who talked at his work.  
 Son—How about a lawyer, dad?