

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The complaint from Berlin that Cardinal Mercier is an "agitator" is another interesting illustration of the peculiarities of the German condition of mind.

There is a vivid scene in "Pilgrim's Progress" wherein the Devil pours oil on one side of a fire to keep it going, and an angel pours water on the other side to put it out.

The unprecedented sale of the Bible certainly means that thousands heart-sick of the carnage are turning their faces from the contemplation of battle and sudden death to the gospel of faith and hope and charity.

That the war has taken its toll of the noblest and bravest is sadly illustrated again in the report that comes from the Cambridge (England) University Review.

As for the Germans, it is said that more than 81 per cent. of 64,000 native male students are in the military service.

HISTORIC PENS

Those Used for Signing Peace Treaties are Very Valuable

Who will get the pen with which the peace treaty will be signed which shall end the present war?

The collecting of historic pens has been quite a fad for some years past, especially in Europe.

When it became known that peace had been declared between Japan and Russia pen manufacturers all over the world sent supplies of their pens to the commissioners who were engaged in arranging the terms, hoping that the document would be completed through the agency of their wares.

It was also a quill pen that was used in signing the treaty of peace between the United States and Spain after the war of 1898.

The pen used by the commissioners in signing the memorable Treaty of Paris fell into the hands of the ex-Empress Eugenie.

Aside from the collectors there are many who consider it lucky to possess a pen that has been used in signing the reprieve of a person condemned to death.

Queen Victoria always retained possession of such pens. One of these she presented to Mme. Albani, the singer.

Pens which have been used by famous authors often fetch high prices at auction.

These patterns may be obtained from your local McCall Dealer or from The McCall Company, Dept. W., 70 Bond St., Toronto, Ont.

Clerk—"I'd like to get a week off, sir, to attend the wedding of a friend."

The Fashions

FUR STILL IN EVIDENCE. For taffeta and the printed silks which are now so high in Fashion's favor, for the crisp organdies and daintily figured voiles and crepes, there is no more practical or effective trimming than cording, smoking or shirring.

Many of our dance frocks for summer will be of organdy or net; an unusually pretty imported frock of net, shown recently in one of our exclusive shops, made with an extremely full skirt, gathered at the waist, equally wide top and bottom; the skirt was hung over a crinoline hip

There must be great awkwardness indeed in having the world told by an authority in governing the country she unjustly conquered, how to murder and pillage a crushing burden of taxation has been added, how neither age nor sex can plead exemption from brutal tyranny.

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THE SUNDAY LESSON

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, MARCH 5.

Death of Stephen—Acts 7. 1 to 8. 3; Golden Text: Rev. 2: 10.

Verse 54. These things—The biting summary which closes Stephen's survey of the national history. They had received divine messages through-out their angels, and had always neglected the message and persecuted the messenger.

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the guilt. Except the apostles—The reason is not very clear. Was it that they, like James the Lord's brother, observed Jewish piety so faithfully that they were overlooked? It is hardly likely. We may suppose that they felt their duty bound them to Jerusalem till a clear monition came, and that they succeeded in hiding till the storm quieted down.

2. Devout—Proselytes, not Jewish-born. They naturally felt peculiar devotion to the memory of the Hel-lenistic martyr.

3. Laid waste—Paul's own word (Gal. 1: 23); literally, sacked, appropriate to Huns sacking a town, is repeated in Acts 9: 21.

Remedies for Child's Colds. Mothers have many trials in the shape of children's colds, sore throats, croup, etc. As a precautionary measure, of possible, the tonsils and adenoid growths should be removed. The danger to the child is very slight.

In three operations on children in my own family the child was in each instance entirely able to go home from the hospital nine hours after the operation, and suffered only a slight inconvenience next day, complain-ing of slight pain only occasionally, writes Mrs. N. O. B. I have trained my children to take a cold plunge every morning immediately upon getting out of bed. This does not mean dabbling in the water. It is a sudden plunge and a quick, vigorous rub-down with bath towel. This they have winter and summer, and, although at first, a burden, the results are worth the trouble.

Several years ago I discarded cough syrups and have used only white vaseline and sugar. A jar of each is kept convenient and a small spoon; and if a child coughs, or is hoarse, I give a half teaspoonful of vaseline dipped in white sugar. For hoarseness tending to croup I use a croup kettle with steaming water and a tablespoonful of compound tincture of benzoin. Place over alcohol lamp near the child and let the pleasant smelling vapor heal the trouble. I frequently burn this in the room where the children are playing and at night pull the bed out from the wall at the head and put the croup kettle behind, where the vapor can reach the child. Do not close windows, as fresh air helps. In any ordinary case of croup this will prove efficacious.

For a cold in the head a small rubber bulb ear syringe is used to give a nose douche with a glass of warm (not hot) water into which has been dissolved 1/2 teaspoonful of salt and a pinch of cooking soda. This thoroughly cleanses the nasal passages and gives the child relief from sniffing. Use two or three times a day.

Children should be taught to gargle, and to put out their tongues and say, "Ah—ah—ah," so that in case of any sore throat the doctor can see if there is any trouble. Such things may easily be taught as games, and the child can use the salt and soda solution given above for the throat.

Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet fever is perhaps the most dreaded of all the so-called diseases of childhood. It is highly infectious; the germ is not only very virulent but very hard to kill. It attaches itself to anything that has been in contact with a sufferer from the disease—to the clothing, the bedding, toys or can be disinfected by boiling, should be burned, for the germs of scarlet fever are most surely destroyed by extreme heat. Parents dread scarlet fever because an attack may be of so malignant a type that death occurs in a few hours, and a light case in one child may be the cause of a very severe attack in another. Moreover, certain serious complications are likely to follow a recovery from the fever itself.

It follows from all this that we cannot be too careful in dealing with scarlet fever. Too many homes have been bereaved because other families in ignorant carelessness have permitted their children to go abroad before they were wholly cured, on the plea that the case was too slight to be considered as dangerous; or have permitted the brothers and sisters of the patient to keep on attending school; or have neglected to disinfect house and clothing.

Scarlet fever is most prevalent in cold weather. People of any age can have it, but it is usually a disease of childhood, the greater number of cases occur between the second and the ninth year. There is not much danger of widespread epidemics nowadays because the laws that require physicians to report all cases to the local health authorities are stringent and generally well enforced. The greatest danger is in crowded tenements, where it is almost impossible to isolate contagious cases effectively. When the conditions at home make it impossible to handle the case without danger to others, the patient must be removed to a hospital for infectious diseases.

Do not forget that there may still be danger to others long after the child himself has recovered from the disease, either from the germs, which he may carry in his nose or throat for a long time, or in the flakes of skin that the body throws off when it "peels," after the fever and the eruption have subsided.—Youth's Companion.

Quite the Contrary.

"My husband tells me that he was out late last night with your husband."

"That isn't so. I want you to understand that my husband was out with your husband."

In Relief Work



LADY ALASTAIR INNES-KEE, one of London's most active relief workers. Her husband is a brother of the Duke of Roxburghe.

HOW AMERICANS VIEW THE GREAT WAR.

By Chas. M. Rice, Denver, Colo.

In the U.S. the individual right of property has always been regarded as one of the most sacred of all human institutions. Trespass here, upon property rights is one of the blackest of sins, and hence Imperialism finds it impossible to understand America.

But it is just this abhorrence to the sin of trespass that has lent the peculiar sanctity to all American treaties with Canada as with the rest of the world, for which the country is noted.

The U.S. has 100,000,000 of people Canada has 10,000,000, and though we need many things that Canada possesses, it is unthinkable that "We should take what we want and explain afterwards" is a German policy.

There is not a fort from Maine to Victoria along the 3,900 miles of the Canadian frontier, but if we adopted Germany's policy we would have to erect fortifications all along the route, and keep one or two millions of men drawn from farm and factory to defend them, and our neighbor would have to do the same. In some things the individual nation is every-thing, the individual nothing. Thank the Central Powers, and chiefly to one of these. Absolute power is always prone to mistakes, and this is the sequence of endless adoration, for it destroys the ruler's power to think in straight or consistent lines. Flattery is sure to conceal weakness, and no man is so unfortunate as the man who is put on a throne and lifted up beyond the reach of plain truth-telling.

No ruler is charged with more serious diplomatic blunders than the Kaiser.

He was dead sure that England would remain neutral, because of a little dispute with Ireland. Italy will be a German ally because of the Triple Alliance. Belgium will be neutral, and allow us to trespass on her property and destroy her homes, if we promise indemnity when the war is over. France is unprepared and weak and we will have Paris within three weeks.

An alliance with Turkey will bring on a holy war, in which all Islam will join. Japan will hold Russia in check, and leave us a free hand in the Balkans.

The czar will be attacked by Bulgaria, Italy and China, etc.

These are but a few of the Kaiser's many diplomatic blunders, but they demonstrate the danger of elevating a man to the throne in whose presence favoring men burn incense, and pour forth flattery to nascentation.

The Kaiser was the first to send forth a hostile and aggressive army, but he had no difficulty, it seems, in convincing his people that it was in self-defense—to save the empire from Russian barbarism, and like nonsense.

But Belgium's gallant defense cost Germany the most important weeks of the war, and her high water-mark in the war was reached when she was with in twenty miles of Paris.

Intoxicated with the prospect of victory, like Napoleon at Austerlitz, the waves are fast ebbing away to a fatal Waterloo that surely awaits him.

The question America is seriously considering is, shall Germany be allowed to lay ruthless hands upon smaller states whose territory she may chance to covet? If this is not to be rebuked, where will it end?

We recall that a German pamphlet published in the North American review two or three years ago, an article in which he said that "once Germany is victorious in Europe, the "Monroe Doctrine" will go, and the U.S. will receive the thrashing she so richly deserves." That this echoes the sentiment of the German people there can be little doubt, and the duty of preparing is thus made evident. The same war vultures with black wings that brood over Europe as heralds of poverty, sorrow and death, are liable to migrate to new fields, and America may be the next to supply the harvest of death. But I greatly mistake if they find America as unprepared as peaceful Europe was when the Kaiser set hostile foot on Belgium soil.

The martial spirit of this great country is being aroused as never before since 1861—goaded on without



The Princess and the Daisies. Of all the flowers in the Princess's garden the six daisies that grew near the rose bush considered themselves the most important. "The roses are prettier than we are, and the lilies more graceful, but we are much wiser, for we answer questions that human beings bring us," said the smallest daisy. "I don't know how we do it, but we can, for my mother told me so."

The other flowers did not object to the pride of the daisies, for it was a species sort of pride, but the daisies themselves were very angry with one of their number who called herself the Queen. "I am Queen because I have the most petals," she said. "You all have only seven and I have eight, I daresay I could never answer questions much better than you; therefore, I am Queen."

She then became very rude and tyrannical, taking more than her fair share of dew, and persuading the west wind to make the other five daisies a great noise of rejoicing, and foot hurrying up and down the path, he-bright petals than seven," they com-plain. "I am sure she will not answer questions any better for it."

At last the time for answering questions arrived. The Princess had said good-bye to her lover, who had de-parted on a journey. He had been half an hour, and naturally she wanted to know whether he still loved her. She came out and leant over the first seven-petaled daisy. "Did you not pull the petals, she was to kind saying, "He loves me, he loves me not," till she touched the last it came to "He loves me." She gave a cry of joy, "You dear dear little daisy," she said, and kissed it. "I am so glad you have told me that. To-morrow I will come and ask another of you this question."

To-morrow she came, to get the same pleasant answer, and every day, till the fifth daisy was fully asked and answered, did the Princess enquire. Now came the time for the sixth daisy that had the eight petals.

doubt by the tragic lessons taught by the present relentless struggle. A nation that sneers at its solemn treaties is not to be trusted in any way, and the only safety for America lies in being abundantly prepared to repel any aggression, and assert her rights, come what may.

This conviction is rapidly settling down upon American thought to-day, and every effort is being put forth to strengthen her defenses, and increase her naval strength.

The capacity of a democracy to quickly employ its resources is proverbial, as history demonstrates. Like Canadian, born and matured under civil and political freedom, America has a heritage to fight for, and has never been found lacking in those stern qualities that make the invincible, daring and unconquerable soldier.

More Portable Shaps. A Lancashire weaver recently joined the army, and after being at Plymouth three months, was allowed home on a week's furlough. Visiting his old factory, he was encountered by the genial head of the firm with a smile, and—"I hope they made a new man of you?" The soldier replied:—"Aw'll tell you 'what they've done, sir. They've ta'en 'th' hump of mine back an' put it on mi chest, and it's a lot casier to carry now."—London Answers.

THE FAILURE OF AN ALLIANCE

All Can Walk and Talk With God, if Their Hands are Only Pure and Unblemished

"When ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you; yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear; your hands are full of blood."—Isaiah, 1, 15.

Prayer is the highest exercise of the religious life. It is the conversation of the believing heart with God, therefore, the engaging in a divine human alliance for righteousness. This large purpose, unrealizable by man alone, is easily accomplished by God and man together. Prayer is the bond which unites Creator and creature into an intimate fellowship of action. If religion consists of walking with God, it must also be a talking with God, for friends do not walk together in silence.

Prayer is an empowering alliance. It is a drawing on the stored up resources of the Almighty, a supplementing of human deficiency by divine sufficiency.

Do You Crave Holiness? Holiness is of the Lord, to be had of Him only for the asking. It can never be developed of your own power. Or do you desire success? You possess talents and personal gifts of character. God's power directs these talents so that they may be realized in the highest forms of efficiency and utility.

A true alliance is never one sided; it is always reciprocal. Each ally performs his portion of the compact. Otherwise the association fails. Charging God with the failures and losses which are of our own making is one of the commonest and yet one of the most unworthy of our mental processes. Our prayers appear to be unanswered; there is a sting of bit-terness in that oft repeated complaint. The alliance proposed well, but some God never failed at the crucial moment. One never fails; a failing God would be no God at all. Perhaps we have failed. "When ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you," says "Those hands are soiled, dirty, contaminated, stained." Their disreputableness automatically breaks the binding power of the alliance.

The True and Helpless Alliance. The most devastating of sins is selfishness. The compelling power of prayer is its selflessness. Why pray for creature comforts only? Jesus never prayed for a roof to cover Him nor for soft beds and good meals. His prayers were for spiritual gifts; their clear object not Himself but others—"I pray that they shall be with me, where I am and that they shall know my glory." "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us." An unforgiving heart need never expect to have its cry heard. Such a cry, like a shout for help in mid-ocean, with no ship nearer than a thousand miles, will do us no good. Why do we persist in carrying around our grudges, our hates and our enmities and then wondering why the Lord seems deaf? The true and helpful alliance is habitual; it is not merely a last resort when all else seems to spell defeat. Its united strength prevails would otherwise tempt the troubler. The complete indwelling of God with man will dissuade the evildoer and save men from themselves. The way is open. "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart."—Rev. Charles J. Smith.