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# THE AFFAIRS OF THE HOUR

## HERE IT IS IN SHORT ORDER FOR WHIG READERS.

### Telegraphic Tidings From all Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted For Easy Reading.

Boston is agitating the question of prohibiting the ringing of church bells.

All the hack stands at the state reservation, Niagara Falls, are to be abolished.

Miss Florence Nightingale has contributed £100 to the Scottish hospital in South Africa.

A force of Chinese cavalry attacked by Boxers lost a colonel and seventy men killed and wounded.

Stein Hinds, a carpenter of Chatham, Ont., fell from a barn and broke his arm and one leg.

There are over 50,000 Japanese residents of Korea, as well as a shiftless Chinese population.

A smokestack is being manufactured at St. Louis, which will be 200 feet high and will cost $20,000.

A mad dog bit Mrs. Berthcey and killed five dogs before he was shot at Alden, N.Y., on Thursday.

Albert Bigelow Paine, author of "The Bread Line," will contribute to the June Century two short stories.

It is reported that great poverty prevails among the peasants of Southern Italy, owing to the burden of taxation.

A new elevator is being erected at Meaford, Ont. Twenty five thousand feet of lumber will be used in construction.

Ringling Bros' $1,000,000 circus will soon enter Canada. There are 400 cages of animals and twenty five elephants with the show.

Hundreds of astronomers are gathered at various astronomical stations in the southern states to study the eclipse of the sun to-day.

Thomas McDonald, brother of Maxinee Elliott, the actress, wife of Nat Goodwin, committed suicide at San Francisco, on Thursday.

Thomas J. Murray, known among his friends as "Terrapin Tom," shot himself at New York, on Thursday. Murray was a newspaper man.

John Patterson, a freight handler, working at the Tilt farm, N.Y., fell from an engine and was horribly mutilated on Thursday.

Secretary Hay, Washington, cabled congratulations and best wishes of the president to queen Victoria on the occasion of her birthday.

James Cherrie, one of the founders of the Scottish land restoration league, died at Glasgow lately. He was a leader in labor movements in Scotland.

Maj.-Gen. Wauchope, of the 12nd Foot Black Guards, who died in action at Magersfontein, left personal estate in England and Scotland valued at £82,712.

Signor Guiseppe Del Puente, the widely-known baritone, died suddenly on Friday, at his home in Philadelphia. Death was due to apoplexy. He was sixty years of age.

A New York lumber firm received a cargo of mahogany from Manila. It is of the finest quality and will be used for piano cases. It is the first cargo received in New York from Manila.

Ethel Long, who lives on her father's farm near Austin, Ohio, was found at a spring near her home with her throat cut from ear to ear and her head smashed. She hail been outraged.

Miss Edna Hoagg, Brantford, Ont., and three other girls were riding their bicycles on Thursday with arms interlocked. They met a rig. Miss Hoagg fell and sustained concussion of the brain.

In the war in South Africa the British house of lords has four dukes, thirteen earls and twelve barons, while the house of commons has twenty-five, of whom eleven bear courtesy titles and three are baronets.

Negotiations have been carried on between several wealthy Englishmen and Long Island real estate men, with a view to forming an English colony on Long Island similar to the Rugby settlement in Tennessee.

Calvin Kincheon, the negro who shot and killed two young white girls and wounded his wife at Pueblo, Col., was lynched by an angry mob. The rope was put across a telegraph pole and broke twice, but the third attempt was successful.

The following pensions have been issued to residents of Canada, by the United States government: Increase, James Conley, Lacolle, Que., $30 a month; Richard Powell, Barrie, Ont., $10, war with Spain, widows, etc., Ann Slater, mother, Patterson Settlement, N.B., $12.

A plan for the defence of Manchuria has been drawn at St. Petersburg. Six fortification posts will be erected. Gen. Sacharoff, chief of the Russian general staff, will start for Manchuria at the end of this month, accompanied by eight high Russian officers, to prepare for a possible conflict with Japan.

Simultaneous with the announcement of the Century's prize for college graduates of the year (in its June number) the successful essay last year, the poem and story having already been printed. The topic is "The Poetry of William Blake" and the writer is Henry Justin Smith, of Chicago university.

Commissioner Powderly, of the United States immigration bureau, hotly resents the charge that the United States and Canadian officers have leagued together unofficially for the lax enforcement of immigration laws. There was a close watch to keep Canadians out, but he did not know whether Ottawa officials were as strict.

A bill is now before the United States house with a view to making it compulsory for all aliens, except Canadians and Mexicans, to land at certain designated ports along the border, and to deport them if they enter through other ports. The object is to prevent orientals from evading immigration laws.

For the fourth time within six months a fraud order has been issued against agents representing the National sculpture society, Quebec, who have been promoting a lottery, and advertising for correspondents through the mails. United States postmasters have been directed to return these letters with the word "fraudulent" stamped on them.

Attached to the staff of the Paris observatory is an American astronomer, Miss Dorathea Klumpke, of California. In November last, in company with a friend and an aeronaut, Miss Klumpke made an ascension from Paris for observing the expected shower of Leonids. "A Night in a Balloon," or a trip which extended to the sea, will be narrated in the June Century, with illustrations by Castaigne.

## THE FIRST BABY BOY.

### The Plains Of Abraham Are Not the Plains.

The initial number of North American Notes and Queries will commend itself to historical students and to lovers of literature, biography, archeology, folklore, etc. It seems destined to occupy a place hitherto vacant in the ranks of the periodical literature of the western world, and its permanency was assured by its subscription list before this first number was issued. The best scientists and writers in America will be contributors. Two of its opening articles are noteworthy.

The chief statistician of Canada, George Johnson, Ottawa, tells that the first white baby born in the territory that now composes the dominion was neither French nor English. He was born of Icelander parents, who had settled at the base of Greenland's icy mountains and had sailed to the shores of what is now Nova Scotia, to form a settlement in what they called Vinland. The baby named Snorro was born about 1,007, and became the progenitor of a long line of eminent men. Any Canadian who visits Lucerne in Switzerland will be all the more enthusiastic over the colossal lion carved out of living rock, if he recalls the fact that Thorwaldson, the great sculptor, whose work it is, was a descendant of Snorro.

Thousands of tourists have visited Quebec without seeing the scene of Wolfe and Montcalm's conflict, though they have read the inscription upon the monument where "died Wolfe victorious" and been told that the soil upon which they walked was holy ground, consecrated by the blood of the dying heroes. Important records, plans and manuscript letters and journals have recently come to light in the British war office, the tower of London and other collections of archives, and cast an entirely new light upon the scene of the great battles. The editor E. T. D. Chambers, shows that the Plains of Abraham, upon which the momentous battle was fought, included no part of the race course held now pointed out to strangers as the Plains.

### Naming Of The Months.

"January was named after the Roman god, Janus, the deity with two faces, one looking into the past, and the other gazing to the future," writes Clifford Howard, in the Ladies' Home Journal. "February comes from the Latin word februo, to purify. It was customary for the Romans to observe festivals of purification during that month. March owes its name to the old god of war. Among the Saxons this month was known as Lenet, meaning spring; and this is the origin of our word Lent. April was named from the Latin aperio, to open, in signification of the opening of flowers. The Saxons called the month Eastre, in honor of their goddess of spring, from which comes our word Easter. May was named after the Roman goddess Maia, and June was so called in honor of Juno. July was named in honor of Julius Caesar, and August gets its name from Augustus Caesar. September is from the Latin septem, seven, this being the seventh month according to the old Roman calendar. October, November and December also retain the names by which they were known under the old calendar, when there were but ten months in the year—octo, novem and decem meaning eight, nine and ten."


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## THE RHODESIAN RAILWAY.

### Something About the Fever-Stricken Country.

Montreal Star.

The Canadian artillerymen who arrived at Mafeking so opportunely must have had a "delightful" time in their passage through Rhodesia, by the tinny little line of the Beira railway. The route passes for some sixty miles through a malarial swamp, and takes thirty miles to rise five feet above the level of the sea.

In fact it seems tolerably clear that the neighborhood of Beira would be more salubrious all round if, instead of five feet above, it were twenty feet below the surface of the sea.

It is reckoned, says a writer in the Railway Magazine, describing his experiences on the route, that each quarter of a mile on this road 222 miles long cost the life of one white man, and that although the guage of the diminutive line is only two feet wide (though it is now being altered to three feet six inches, the standard guage of South Africa, and of the Cape to Cairo line). When this is done trains will be able to run right through from Beira to Salisbury in thirty hours, instead of having to change at Umtali for the wider guage of the Mashonaland railway, and taking sixty hours for the journey. At the same time, the rough timber bridges are being replaced by steel ones.

As a rule, there are two passenger trains per week from Beira to Umtali, one on Wednesdays and one on Saturdays. Goods trains are run as often as may be needed for the traffic, and passengers are allowed to travel on them at their own risk, paying ordinary fare. Natives ride on the trucks, not being allowed in the carriages.

There are no platforms at the "stations." The train just stops at a clearing in the jungle, with a few corrugated-iron buildings. There are no signalmen and no signals. The carriages are about twenty feet long, and six feet wide, with leather cushions, which suffer from the tendency of deluges of engine sparks to make a way through the roof.

The Canadians probably also discovered that the stench of decaying vegetation which arises in clouds of morning mist off the land as penetrating as sparks, and still less healthy, and it may still be the case that when at last the line does get among the hills it jolts you so that at one moment you almost fall off your seat on to the floor, and at the next bang your head against the partition.

### Bits Of Femininity.

Black and white in combination are still the rage in the east.

The new golf hats are on the Alpine order and are made of the reversible goods like the skirt, the plaid side forming the under brim.

Dragon flies with wings of gauze are among the late fetching hair ornaments.

White and colored linens are used in novel combinations with foulard silks.

The very newest skirts are those that have rows of shirring around the sides and back.

Cherries are fast usurping the popularity of the grape as a hat garniture.

White cotton d'esprit and plain bobbinet are very smart in combination with lace over silk foundations.

The long quill has lived its day as accessory to the outing hat, its place now being filled by two silk pompons the color of the hat.

The long military cape, reaching to the hem of one's frock, is the latest utility wrap.

### A Nervy Old Girl.

Paris, May 26.—An old woman was found exhausted from hunger on the highway near the town of Sezanne, department of Marna, yesterday. She was cared for, and when she had recovered a little of her strength, she informed the authorities that she was born in Alsace on January 2nd, 1798, and was therefore 103 years old. Despite her great age she had determined to see the Paris exhibition, and had set out on foot for the capital. She had been walking for fifteen days and carrying a pack weighing fifty-nine pounds. All the money she had was two francs. During her journey she had slept in barns and under hedgerows. A collection was made among the residents of Sezanne and sufficient money was raised to send the old woman to Paris in comfort.


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