

TO HAVE FRENCH THEATER.

Charles Frohman Secures M. Constant Coquette to Manage New York Playhouse.

New York is to have a permanent French theater. Charles Frohman will establish it and M. Constant Coquette will be its artistic director.

"It is a plan," said Mr. Frohman, "that has long been in my mind. Everywhere one hears French spoken in New York. French recitals and lectures are given in fashionable drawing-rooms. Harvard and Yale and other colleges give plays in French, and when 'L'Aiglon' was played in New York and French it was the French edition that had the largest sale. Is not the time ripe for the establishment of a French theater in New York? I believe so, and I am going to undertake it."

"It will not be done, however, in any half-and-half way. I have nothing in mind but the best when this company is formed. I don't want any actors who ought to leave France, but those who cannot well be spared. I hope to have Maurice Grau interested with me in the project, and have talked it over with him. In fact, it was he who brought me and Mr. Coquette together when I was abroad, and I have asked M. Coquette to take the artistic direction of the house, the selection of the players and the repertory, and to act himself if he will. I expect shortly to have M. Coquette's definite answer and I trust it will be 'yes.'"

EXPERIMENT IN PORTO RICO.

Good Success Promised for Test Raised Tobacco in the Little Island.

Connecticut methods of growing tobacco under cheese cloth tents seem to be making rapid headway in the island of Porto Rico, according to the statement of William J. Hayes, of Tariffville, Conn., who has just returned from a tobacco plantation in the island, where he is conducting experiments. For two years various growers in Connecticut have been studying the effects of a tobacco crop raised under tents, and the good results have led to a general adoption of tenting methods. Tobacco under cheesecloth tents will, it has been found in the Connecticut valley, grow to unusual height, retain all of the excellencies of the smaller plants, grow more leaves and take on a finer flavor.

Mr. Hayes has been in Porto Rico for several months superintending experiments on a plantation near San Juan, owned by Raphael Gonzales. He says, in speaking of the experiments: "We are now making the first trial of tent-raised tobacco in Porto Rico, using about an acre for the experiment. In two months from planting the plants have grown two feet. We have found that wind, rain and too hot suns are tempered by the covering, and that it keeps off worms, bugs and fleas. I think that by next year tent-raised tobacco will be general throughout our part of the island. Already we are being watched with interest by scores of planters."

Gold in New York Streets.

Workmen in the employ of McCabe Bros., contractors for the new subway, at New York, have been considerably excited lately owing to the fact that while taking out some rock from the excavation at Broadway and One Hundred and Eighty-ninth street one of the employes who had formerly been a western miner noticed a yellow streak in the rock and declared it was gold. A large crowd, drawn to the entrance of the shaft by the news of the gold discovery, attracted the attention of the local police who reported the news to the authorities. An investigation demonstrated that the gold could not be obtained on a paying basis owing to the limited amount produced.

It at First You Don't Succeed.

J. Frederick Tams, of Tams, LeMoine & Crane, yacht brokers, who has been in Holland, Belgium and England since October 30, has just arrived in this country. He said he had a half hour's conversation with Sir Thomas Lipton in London shortly before leaving. "Sir Thomas told me," said Mr. Tams, "that he would challenge for the cup until he either won it or was convinced that it could not be won. I certainly think Sir Thomas is very much in earnest and that his desire to win the cup comes from sporting motives only. I wanted to get him to talk about other things, but his heart is set on that cup."

Complaint of Chaplain's Uniform.

Troubles of chaplains in the United States navy were discussed by Rev. Dr. George E. Strobridge, of Stamford, Conn., at the recent Methodist ministers' meeting in New York city. The claim was made that their salaries are insufficient. He also found fault with the uniform, which he described as a "single-breasted, shad-bellied, long-tailed frock coat such as is worn by clergymen in some foreign countries, but which simply looks ridiculous here." He said that at the opening of the Kiel canal, when the Kaiser passed through the line of warships, the chaplain in the American ship was ordered below because of his grotesque appearance.

HAD LONG STRUGGLE

Women of Methodist Church to Be Given Place in Conference.

The New Constitution Adopted in Which Provision is Made for Their Admission as Delegates with Unrestricted Rights.

The long struggle for official recognition in the conferences by women of the Methodist church is probably ended, at last, and, it is claimed that the women have won, says the New York Tribune. A statement to this effect has just been made by Dr. Stephen L. Baldwin, recording secretary of the Mission Society of the Methodist Episcopal church, who says that the returns from the conferences are so far in that it is certain the new constitution is adopted.

The new constitution was submitted at the general conference of the church held in Chicago in 1900, approved by it, and referred for decision to the conferences throughout the world. The principal changes are that it gives women the right to sit as delegates in the general conference; it gives laymen's electoral meetings authority to vote on constitutional questions, and it changes the vote necessary in the general conference to amend the constitution from three-fourths to two-thirds.

Dr. Baldwin said in an interview: "The subject of admitting women as delegates was first agitated at the general conference held in New York in 1888. At the general conference in 1896 six women were elected, but two withdrew. Another long discussion took place, and it was decided that the women might take their seats 'with title in dispute.' The four declined to accept this condition and withdrew. The question was submitted again to the church, but although a large majority of the ministers voted in favor of admitting women on equal terms, it was defeated, because the required three-fourths vote in favor was not obtained. Last year the general conference accepted the new constitution, which contained the desired clause. The various sectional conferences have all been heard from except a few in foreign fields, and more than the required three-quarters vote is assured."

NEW CARRIAGE CALL.

The Man with the Fog-Horn Voice Displaced at New York by Electric Signal Lights.

Much clamor and confusion will be done away with at the Metropolitan opera house by the installation of an illuminated carriage call system, which will signal to waiting coachmen a half mile distant. The proper numbers will be flashed from a conspicuous place commanding the stretches of pavement where the carriages, cabs and automobiles now crowd and jam the crossings after opera hours.

Operators stationed at the entrances will give numbered checks, and, without the aid of the man with the foghorn voice, calling one's vehicle will be only a matter of switching a series of levers arranged somewhat like a typewriter board. The figures from 1 to 9 can be shown in each of the three large apertures, so that carriage calls may be numbered up in the hundreds and changed every two seconds. The principle of the device is similar to that of the shifting advertising legends written in colored incandescence lights.

The owners of several theaters are waiting to adopt the system if the test at the opera house is as successful as seems probable. The inventor is Mortimer Norden, secretary of the Norden-Bittener Electric company.

RAGGED BUT HONEST.

Needy Errand Boy in New York City Returns Fat Pocketbook Which He Picked Up.

A remarkable display of honesty on the part of an errand boy in tattered clothes has aroused much interest in Morrisania. Harry Hunt, 15 years old, who works 12 hours a day in a drug store and takes his weekly wages of three dollars to his mother as his share toward the support of the family, found on the street a pocketbook containing gold and paper to the value of \$110 and jewels worth \$400 more. He ran as fast as his legs could carry him to the nearest police station and turned over the purse.

After counting the money Sergt. McGinn looked at the boy and found that his shoes were badly worn, his stockings had holes in them and his clothes were ragged.

"Why didn't you take some of the money and buy some new shoes?" asked the sergeant.

"I need the shoes," replied the lad, "but the money wasn't mine. I can here as quick as I could so no one could say I stole it."

Envelope Causes Death.

James Hicks, a prominent iron manufacturer of Cincinnati, O., died in the Waldorf-Astoria at New York the other day of blood poisoning. He came to New York city about a week ago. A few days later he was licking an envelope, when the sharp edge of the paper cut his lip, and blood poisoning set in. Mr. Hicks was prominently identified with the Cincinnati Corrugated Iron company and the Piqua rolling mills. His widow, who is a daughter of ex-Mayor Thomas, of Cincinnati, arrived in the city in the evening and accompanied the body to Cincinnati, where the burial took place.

Huge Iron Pillar in India. The largest wrought-iron pillar is at Delhi, in India. It is 60 feet high and weighs 17 tons.

SHOW LARGE GROWTH

Churches of the Country Add Many to Their Enrollment.

The Increase During 1901 Was 2.07 Per Cent, or Greater Than the Gain in Population, Which Was 2.18 Per Cent.

Statistics of the growth of the churches of the United States in 1901 and the order of denominational rank in 1890 and 1901 have been completed by Rev. Dr. H. K. Carroll, who was in charge of the religious statistics of the United States census of 1890.

At the end of 1900 there were 27,360,610 members of all churches in the United States, according to Dr. Carroll's figures, and 28,000,627 at the end of 1901, a gain of 739,027, or 2.67 per cent, or greater than the annual rate of increase in population from 1890 to 1900. The Catholics lead with a present membership of 9,158,741, a gain of 468,083. Dr. Carroll rates the increase in Roman Catholic membership as too high, and regards the figures as those of the growth of several years in a large proportion of the dioceses. The percentage of growth in the Protestant Episcopal church, 4 per cent, Dr. Carroll regards as large. It is, next to the Roman Catholic, the largest growth of the year, and was greatest in the eastern cities. The accessions to the Protestant Episcopal church were from Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, Congregationalists, and other denominations rather than from the nonchurch public.

The Disciple of Christ, whose membership is almost wholly in the middle west, has almost doubled its following since 1890. Of Christians, Dr. Carroll says that he took his statistics from the mother church at Boston, while his figures are much less than some scientists claim. The statistician found 22 different kinds of Lutherans in the United States. The total Lutheran growth last year was 36,101, much of which was in the independent synods, that of Iowa alone being 21,000, while others lost heavily. Of his own body, the Methodists, he says that with a total membership of 2,762,691 the Methodists north increased by 16,500. Last year, however, many evangelical movements in which Methodists led were undertaken, and it has been claimed that 600,000 new members were brought in. It is Dr. Carroll's belief that there are 300,000 Mormons in or about Utah, and it is stated that 65,000 conversions were made last year by 1,400 missionaries in the east. A fact brought out by Dr. Carroll is the tenacity of religious bodies, no matter what the discouragement. There are 12 kinds of Presbyterians. In 1900 the twelfth kind had only one minister and a handful of members. Last year the minister died, but the handful of members are still faithful, and probably will remain so. They call themselves Reformed Presbyterians in the United States and Canada.

BUFFALO BECOMING EXTINCT.

Steps Necessary to Preserve the American Bison in Yellowstone National Park.

According to reports received from the Yellowstone National park, the buffalo hold within its confines is rapidly disappearing, and unless congress makes further provision threatens to become extinct. New blood must be introduced into the little herd of bison frequenting Geysersland. Last winter but 18 buffaloes remained in the Hayden valley of the former herd of 30. The specimens that now exist lack the strength of their former hardy predecessors and are barely able to withstand the rigors of the winter.

Elk are reported more numerous than any other animal in the park. There are at least 50,000 of them within the park limits. Antelope, too, are numerous, especially in the valley of the Gardiner river, where a band of 1,000 is sometimes seen.

It is urged that a fence be built across the Gardiner canyon, as the animals, having lost the greater part of their fear for man, wander across the park limits and become a prey of the hunters.

Boy Gives His All to Charity.

Master Michelin, ten years old, the wealthy son of a shoe manufacturer of Paris, got as a Christmas gift a \$4,000 automobile made purposely for him on condition that he would spend the holiday week in distributing free shoes among the children of the tenement districts. Consequently the automobile started loaded several times daily. In five days 5,908 pairs of shoes had been given away. The shoe manufacturer thought that was enough, but the boy became so impressed with the unsuspected misery he had discovered in the course of his charity tour that he asked permission to sell his automobile in order to buy more shoes. The parents let him do so, in order that the child might have the satisfaction of personal charity and sacrifice.

A Possible Explanation.

Mrs. Patrick Campbell says she finds that American ladies are the happiest in the world. Perhaps, suggests the Chicago Record-Herald, those with whom Mrs. Patrick has been associating have had unusual luck of late in keeping their cooks.

Hard to Break Away.

In Boston they still have lectures on Kipling. How those people do cling to a fad, exclaims the Chicago Record-Herald, when they have once given themselves up to it!

DIAMONDS IN MONTANA.

Immense Field of the Precious Stones Believed to Have Been Located in That State.

The discovery of an immense diamond field in the northeastern part of Fergus county, Mont., has caused excitement among the prospectors of Spotted Horse and Maiden.

When the report reached the former place that Tiffany, the New York jeweler, had pronounced the gems of the first water, a party of prospectors started for the Blood Creek country, where the find was made, to locate ground in what was proved to be a genuine diamond field.

Several weeks ago Cliff Doe and another prospector visited the Blood Creek country on a hunting trip, and while there Doe picked up a number of bright pebbles. Attracted by their unusual character, Doe forwarded the stones to the jewelry establishment in New York. A few days ago he received an answer stating that the gems were diamonds of the finest grade.

Blood creek is a small stream in the northeastern part of the county, located in a wild and broken country. A diamond was found in this part of the country about 25 years ago by William Grandall. The genuineness of the find is not in the least doubted at Lewistown.

AMERICAN MUSEUM ENRICHED

Gift of \$20,000 Enables It to Buy Largest Collection of Butterflies in This Country.

Through the gift of \$20,000 by Dean Hoffman, the American museum of natural history, New York city, will receive the largest collection of butterflies and moths in this country. This addition will make the museum's collection one of the largest in the world.

Since the death of Dr. Herman Streicker many representatives of museums have visited his former home in Reading, Pa., and strong efforts have been made to obtain his collection for their respective institutions. The heirs, however, said no reduction would be made from the original valuation placed upon the collection by Dr. Streicker, which was \$20,000. Morris K. Jesup, president of the museum in New York city, has received a letter from Dean Hoffman, authorizing him to buy the collection for that sum. The arrival of the Streicker material will increase the museum collection by fully 100,000 specimens, among which are several hundred "types"—that is, specimens originally new to science and from which the first description of the species is made. The museum will receive also the Streicker library.

CLAIM HOME OF CARNEGIE.

The Heirs of a Georgia Planter Sue for the Possession of a \$2,000,000 Island.

Andrew Carnegie will be made a party to a suit for property valued at \$2,000,000 which will be brought against the wife of his brother by heirs of Robert Stafford, the Sea Island cotton king. Papers in the action have just been prepared. The suit will be to secure the title to Cumberland island, off the coast of Georgia, which Mr. Carnegie and his sister-in-law have made a beautiful park and midsea home. In the papers on file in the case it is alleged that Robert Stafford bought the island now in dispute in 1848. He had \$300 at that time and went to the island alone to raise cotton. He was successful and in the second year of his work there married Elizabeth Barnaby, who was employed by a Georgia planter, and, though her ancestors were white she had been sold into slavery. It is the descendants of this woman and Robert Stafford who are now contending for the \$2,000,000.

JAP STUDENTS' BAGGAGE.

Strange Assortment of Parcels Held by Prospective Students Arrived at Chicago University.

A huge trunk tied with rope, two old valises, a box of books and some miscellaneous bundles were left in the doorway of Haskell hall at the University of Chicago the other day with directions that they should be taken care of by President Harper.

For two hours the students picked their way carefully through the pieces of baggage and wondered if a new mummy for the museum had left its luggage outside. The articles all bore the name of Shizera Mohara, but Dr. Harper had gone to Morgan Park. The owner proved to be a Japanese youth who could not speak English. He came and sat with his baggage about the middle of the forenoon and smilingly awaited the advances of the faculty.

Efforts to find out the plans of the Jap were unavailing until Prof. Eri R. Hurlbert, dean of the divinity school, with the aid of some sign talk, found that the newcomer intended to attend college. A Japanese student named Outha was sent for and with his assistance the young man was taken care of and his baggage transferred to North hall.

Cost Their Weight in Gold.

An ingenious arithmetician, writing in the London Speaker, makes the following calculation in comparing the weight in flesh of the Boers and the cost in gold of the war: Assuming that the Boer army proper contained originally about 22,870 men, averaging in weight 154 pounds, and accepting the estimate of Mr. Lloyd George, the pro-Boer member of parliament, that the war will eventually cost England some \$2,000,000,000, he makes the discovery that the whole of the Transvaal army might have been weighed out in the scales and barely equal the weight in gold which will be required before they are all led into death of captivity.

France Has Voting Machine.

Premier Waldeck-Rousseau, of France, in his visit to Toulon, evinced interest in an invention of the chief naval constructor of the arsenal there—a voting machine, looking somewhat like a cash register, and said to possess every advantage, guaranteeing secrecy, preventing repeating, and enabling illiterate persons to vote easily. It does away with all writing and scratching. Five tickets, each having 20 names, may be voted simultaneously, straight or mixed. The results, counted automatically, immediately appear on the dials at the back of the machine.

Sign of Progressive Age.

The Michigan peach crop has already been ruined by the frost. The age is getting faster and faster, exclaims the Chicago Record-Herald, presently the peach crop will be getting ruined two or three years in advance.

FASTER STEAMSHIPS.

New Line to Cut the Time Across the Atlantic Ocean.

This is Expected to Be Accomplished by the Substitution of the Turbine Engine—Will Be a Great Trade and Travel.

To clip from 24 to 36 hours from the record time for crossing the Atlantic is the promise of the New York & European Steamship company, a new transatlantic steamship line, which offers assurance of a speedy fulfillment of its pledge, says the New York Tribune. This company, which has already applied for pier privileges in New York city and formulated the larger part of its plans, expects by the substitution of the turbine engine for that now in use to secure a constant speed of 30 knots an hour in its new boats. Such a speed will mean that passengers can be carried from this country to Europe in a little more than four days. The success that has attended the use of the turbine engine in Europe, and especially the remarkable speed that has been secured thereby, has naturally raised the question as to its adaptability for transatlantic steamers. In New York city a strong company has been organized and plans have been pretty well completed for this new line. To cut off a day in the time of crossing the Atlantic will mean to bring enormous profits to the steamship company which succeeds in doing it. Fast mails, not only of this country but those which are beginning to pass through from Australia and the far east, will naturally fall to the steamship company that can handle them quickest. Delivered at Queenstown, these mails could, according to the plans of the New York & European company, be carried in three days and seven hours, a reduction of two days from the present time. Of the importance and value of the turbine engine Prof. R. H. Thurston recently spoke at length before the Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Behr—"Is there anything in the paper?" Lyon (who has been holding the only copy for half an hour or more)—"Not a thing; absolutely nothing in it." Behr—"Smart chaps those newspaper men. To think that it took you so long to find it out."—Boston Transcript.

Pertinent.—Mrs. Duguid (president of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) "My dear children, I love all animals. I never under any circumstances hurt one. I even have a family of pet tortoises. I love them so that I catch flies to feed them." Small Boy "Please, missus, ain't flies animals?"—Town and Country.

GREATEST AMOUNT ON RECORD

Eleven Millions of Dollars Once Carried by the United States Steamer "Swatara."

"I notice that the newspapers have recently spoken of the carrying of \$7,000,000 of bullion to a foreign country by one of the ocean liners as the greatest amount ever transported," said a man who has been with the navy for years to a Washington Star reporter. "It is entirely wrong. In 1885 there was brought from the mint in New Orleans to the treasury in Washington \$11,000,000, and it was brought in a steamer."

"The government decided to transport \$15,000,000 from New Orleans. It was first thought best to bring it by rail, but this was assuming a great risk. The cabinet discussed the matter carefully, and it was finally decided that the safest way would be by water. The members of the cabinet saw that there was a chance for a holdup if the money was brought by train."

"The United States ship Swatara was first designated to carry the money, but it was found that she would be inadequate to transport the whole amount, so the warship steamer Yanbu was pressed into service to help out. We rowed from the Swatara to the Yanbu. The shells from the Swatara were removed, and were also the sails from the sailroom, so that all available space was utilized for packing the coin. The only weapon of defense was a Gatling gun."

NEW GUN SHIELDS A SUCCESS.

Lieutenant General Nelson A. Miles Much Pleased with Test at Bethlehem, Pa.

The Bethlehem Steel company's new gun shields were tested the other day at the proving grounds near Bethlehem, Pa., in the presence of Gen. Miles and officers of the bureau of ordnance and fortifications of the war department. The shields were subjected to severe tests and scored a splendid success.

Gen. Miles said that the company's own designed shields are an improvement on all others. There were two shields of Krupp armor, three inches thick, and they were fired on by three-inch guns half a dozen times without effect. A five-inch gun, however, sent a 50-pound projectile clear through one.

The experiment test was conducted by Lieut. Meigs, the company's ordnance expert. Gen. Miles expressed the hope that the government will adopt the new shields.

Yachtman Weds Girl He Rescued.

At the parochial residence of St. John's Roman Catholic church in Stamford, Conn., Arthur M. Bradley and Miss Terese M. Smith, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Smith, were married. Mr. Bradley is one of the best-known yachtmen of that place. Mr. Bradley is wealthy and Miss Smith was not. He is a Protestant, she a Catholic. She has spent a great deal of time on the water. She came to be a fine sailor. Last fall Miss Smith ventured out alone in a lark boat. The wind was heavy and the boat was knocked down by a treacherous gust. Her position was one of peril. Mr. Bradley went to her rescue. The acquaintance ripened into a love match.

Londoners Are Duped.

Considerable butter was created in London by the announcement that King Edward had appeared in a frock coat with deep, turned-up velvet cuffs. Hundreds of fashionable men immediately rushed to their tailors and ordered similar garments, in spite of their extraordinary novelty. Consternation now prevails, as it is learned that what the king wore was a frock overcoat, on which velvet cuffs are often seen.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

The trouble with most of us is not so much that we have a hard row to hoe but that we dislike hoeing.—Puck.

Tommy's Pop—"A diplomat, my son, is a man who, when he can't have his own way, pretends that the other way is his."—Philadelphia Record.

Some men wake up and find themselves famous, while lots of others stay up all night and never even get a glimpse of fame.—Chicago Daily News.

Mrs. Justwed—"This is excellent cake. Did you get the recipe out of a book?" Mrs. Newwed—"No; I got it out of my head." Mrs. Justwed—"No wonder it is so light."—Boston Traveler.

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"What is the matter with Jenkins?" He told me that he has been suffering many ups and downs. "Yes, it happened at the store." "How was that?" "The boss got down on him and said that he could not hold up his end. Jenkins saw it was all up, so he turned the job down before they passed him up. Now it is up to him to find another job. That's the reason he has looked so down at the mouth, but I hear his chances are looking up a bit now." "Well, my advice to Jenkins would be that he practice a little side-stepping."—Indianapolis News.

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"The money was conveyed from the mint to the vessel's magazine. A squad of secret service officers watched the work. The two vessels were in tow and the trip from New Orleans to the Washington navy yard occupied a little more than four days. Considerable wind was encountered off Hatteras, but otherwise the trip was without incident. The money was carried from the navy yard to the treasury by an express company."

"The money was in boxes of \$2,000 each and in bags. My recollection is that the money was in silver dollars, or the greater part of it, for, while unloading at the navy yard, one of the bags, rotten from being in storage so long, gave way and a large number of silver dollars were scattered about the wharf."

"The Swatara was a historic craft. John Surratt was brought back from Malta in the Swatara. The prince of Wales, now King Edward, paid her a visit once when she was with the American squadron at Villefranche in the Mediterranean. She was then the flagship. The prince, when he saw her, asked:

"Is this a yacht or a man-of-war?"

"The Swatara is now in 'rotten row' in the navy yard at San Francisco waiting to be surveyed. The \$11,000,000 carried by the Swatara from New Orleans to Washington was the greatest amount of money ever carried by a single craft."

Various Uses of Sawdust.

A long list could be given of explosives and varieties of gunpowders that have been made from sawdust. In some the sawdust is used as an absorbent, as with nitroglycerin, in others as a filler, while in still others it is converted into forms of pyroxyline. By heating sawdust with caustic alkali and sulphur a brown dye is obtained which is cheap and fast, resisting both acids and alkalis, and dying cotton without a mordant. By heating sawdust with caustic alkali oxalic acid is formed. A large amount of oxalic acid on the market is made by this process.—Scientific American.

Debtors Are Seized.

Debtors in Siam when three months in arrears, can be seized by the creditor and compelled to work out their indebtedness. Should a debtor run away, his father, his wife or his children may be held in slavery until the debt is canceled.—N. Y. Sun.