

## THE CZAR'S PEACE RESCRIPT.

## OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

THE Foreign Office has issued a short parliamentary paper under the title of "Correspondence respecting the Proposal of H. M. the Emperor of Russia for a Conference on Armaments" (Russia, No. 1, 1899, C. 909). The text of the paper, communicated by Count Muraviev to the Foreign Representatives on Aug. 24, 1898, commonly known as the "Czar's Enunciation," appeared in the "Times" of Aug. 29, forwarding this document to Lord Salisbury, her Majesty's Ambassador in St. Petersburg writes in his despatch of Aug. 25:

Count Muraviev begged me to remark that this eloquent appeal, which he had drawn up at the dictation of the Emperor, did not invite a general disarmament, as such a proposal would not have been likely to be generally accepted as a practical one at present, nor did his Imperial Majesty look for an immediate realisation of the aims he had so much at heart, but desired to initiate an effort the effects of which could only be gradual.

His Excellency thought that the fact that the initiative of this peaceful effort was being taken by the sovereign of the largest military Power with resources for increasing its military strength unrestricted by constitutional and parliamentary limitations, would appeal to the hearts and intelligence of a very large section of the civilised world, and show the discontent and disturbing classes of society that powerful military Governments were in sympathy with their desire to see the wealth of their countries utilised for productive purposes rather than exhausted in a ruinous and to a great extent, useless competition for increasing the powers of destruction.

I observed, in reply, that it would be difficult to remain insensible to the noble sentiments which had inspired this remarkable document, which I would forward at once to your lordship, and I felt sure that it would create a profound impression in England.

To this despatch Mr. Balfour, then temporarily in charge of the Foreign Office, replied on Aug. 26:

The Prime Minister is abroad and the Cabinet scattered, it is impossible for me at present to give any reply, but I feel confident that I am only expressing the sentiments of my colleagues when I say that her Majesty's Government most warmly sympathise with and approve the pacific and economic objects, which his Imperial Majesty has in view.

Subsequently, on Oct. 24, Lord Salisbury replied more fully to her Majesty's Ambassador, Sir C. Scott, as follows:

Foreign Office, Oct. 24, 1898.

Sir, Her Majesty's Government have given their careful consideration to the memorandum which was placed in your hands on Aug. 24 last by the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, containing a proposal of his Majesty the Emperor of Russia for the meeting of a conference to discuss the most effective methods of securing the continuance of general peace and of putting some limit on the constant increase of armaments.

Your Excellency was instructed at the time by Mr. Balfour, in my absence from England to explain the reasons which would cause some delay before a formal reply could be returned to this important communication, and, in the meanwhile, to assure the Russian Government of the cordial sympathy of her Majesty's Government with the objects and intentions of his Imperial Majesty. That this sympathy is not confined to the Government, but is equally shared by popular opinion in this country, has been strikingly manifested since the Emperor's proposal has been made generally known by the very numerous resolutions passed by public meetings and societies in the United Kingdom.

There are, indeed, few nations, if any, which both on grounds of feeling and interest, are more concerned in the maintenance of general peace than Great Britain. The statements which constitute the grounds of the Emperor's proposal are, but too, well justified. It is unfortunately true that while the desire for the maintenance of peace is generally professed, and while, in fact, serious and successful efforts have on more than one recent occasion been made with that object by the Great Powers, there has been a constant tendency on the part of almost every nation to increase its armed force, and to add to an already vast expenditure on the appliances of war. The perfection of the instruments thus brought into use, their extreme costliness, and the horrible carnage and destruction which would ensue from their employment on a large scale, have acted, no doubt as a serious deterrent from war. But the burdens imposed by this process on the populations affected must, if prolonged, produce a feeling of unrest and discontent menacing both to internal and external tranquillity.

Her Majesty's Government will gladly co-operate in the proposed effort to provide a remedy for this evil; and, in any degree, it succeeds, they feel that the Sovereign to whose suggestion it is due will have richly earned the gratitude of the world at large.

Your Excellency is therefore authorised to assure Count Muraviev, that the Emperor's proposal is willingly accepted by her Majesty's Government, and that the Queen will have pleasure in delegating a representative to take part in the conference whenever an invitation is received. Her Majesty's Government hope that the invitation may be accompanied by some indication of the special points to which the attention of the conference is to be directed as a guide for the selection of the British representative and of the assistants by whom he should be accompanied.

You will read this despatch to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and leave him a copy of it.—I am, &c.

SALISBURY.

Here ends the published correspondence. Whether her Majesty's Government has since received the suggested "indication of the special points to which the attention of the conference is to be directed" we are not informed.

## XTRAORDINARY RUNS OF

## ILL-LUCK.

In the old adage, "Misfortunes never come singly," is not strictly true, it is true enough to differentiate it from most of the company that it usually keeps. Proverbial sayings are taken them in the lump, stereotyped idiosyncrasy, but this respecting the vagaries of Fate is an exception to the rule. For a stroke of "ill-luck" is generally followed by another, and then another, till at last one can look back upon a series of disasters.

We all have our bad days—those days when everything goes wrong. On one of these occasions a man, after meeting with several misfortunes, went

to the Crystal Palace for the purpose of reconciling himself with the world. He had nothing further to complain of till he was about to return home, when he fell into one of the basins and got a ducking. Bemoaning his fate, he went on to the railway station. There he so in-became wedged in the thick of a crowd on the platform, with the result that his right arm was pushed through a carriage window and severely cut. This accident gave him plenty to think about till he reached Ludgate Hill, where a collector pounced on him for attempting to palm off an out-of-date return half. The water in his clothes had removed the date from his ticket, and accordingly he was compelled to pay his fare again.

A shopkeeper recently had an even more disastrous day. To begin with, he found that, owing to the bursting of a water-pipe, he was the poorer by £60 or £70. Then he received a telegram announcing the death of a near relation; then he was thrown from a cab, whereby he sustained sundry bruises and a general shock to the system; next he received notice from his landlord of an increase of rent; and, lastly, while going to make certain arrangements for his kinsman's funeral, he was mistaken for another man, arrested under a commitment order, and, despite his protests, taken to prison, where he had to remain until nearly noon on the following day. If this catalogue of mishaps is not an Iliad of ills, what is?

In cycling, as in other affairs, there are good days and bad days. It was on one of the latter that two wheelmen, both experienced riders, mounted on first-class machines, were touring in North Wales. Before they had covered a couple of miles A's saddle-spring broke. B, just to keep his end up, then ripped his front tyre, which had not been repaired fifteen minutes before it punctured. So they went on, misfortune following misfortune, till about six o'clock in the evening, by which time their day's total was something like a dozen miles. Then as the companions were descending a steep hill leading into a town where they had an disgust decided to stop the night. A's brake—one of the ordinary plunger pattern—jammed, and his machine began to shoot away. Choosing the lesser of two evils, he jumped, fortunately sustaining no injury beyond a twisted ankle. His machine, however, was wrecked, dashing as it did against a wall at an awkward bend in the road—a veritable death-trap.

Serious as some bad days are, many runs of "ill-luck" extending over longer periods are worse. The writer once knew a lady whose whole life was completely changed in a week by an extraordinary series of happenings. At the beginning she lost her husband from natural causes. Before it ended she had also been deprived of two sons and her only brother. Although both of her boys were swallowed up by the sea in the same storm, they were in different ships, separated by many miles of angry water. One was in a schooner of which his mother was the principal owner. This vessel had been insured for many years without a single claim being made on the underwriters. As the premium was rather heavy, it was decided to discontinue paying it. Strange to say, the very first voyage she made under the new conditions was also her last. She sank with all hands among whom, as before said, was one of the lady's sons. As to the brother, his death was the bereaved woman's sorrow's crown of sorrows for he was foully murdered only a week after her husband's death.

Another remarkably ill-starred person—a captain in the mercantile marine—has for years struggled against the cruellest of fate. For thirteen consecutive voyages he was dogged by misfortune. Every trip he made had its black record; and on two occasions he even lost his ship. What adds to the strangeness of this fact is that he has never been at fault, having always been exonerated from blame. In these circumstances some sippers have, to the writer's knowledge, thrown up the sponge. Not long ago one retired because for voyage after voyage he lost men, injured himself, or had his ship damaged by a gale. But the sailor in question is still struggling against ill fortune.

There are even runs of "luck" which extend over the whole of a man's life. This is particularly noticeable as regards accidents, to which some unhappy sons of Adam are singularly liable. One of those unfortunate, who died not long since, broke a leg more than twenty times. A well-known black-and-white artist, who is still among us, has had a more extraordinary career, since he has been disabled in all manner of ways. His "luck," however, appears to have now changed for the better.

Very curious, also, is the "luck" of a gentleman fond of outdoor sports. His record of accidents stands thus: At football he has broken a leg and permanently injured a knee-cap; at lacrosse, dislocated a thumb and broken two fingers; at cricket, injured an eye, having been struck in it with a ball; at hunting, broken his collar-bone; at cycling, fractured three ribs, broken an arm, and sustained such injuries to his face that he will carry the scars to his grave. He has also fractured a leg on several occasions by sleeping in the street, falling downstairs, and so forth. Very few forms of active open-air recreation are now open to him, for he has dropped the foregoing sports one by one as he has been injured by following them.

## GIRL-THIEVES AND THEIR TEACHERS.

When people read the police-court news in the daily papers, and come upon any particular case of juvenile depravity, they rarely realise that the precocious youngster is but one member of a large class of students in the art of crime, and a stupid member too, or he or she would not have been captured. For in the criminal community there are known masters of each branch of law-breaking; and the man or woman who has attained notoriety in any particular line is besieged with applicants as pupils, eager to learn, and pay for learning, the secrets of the craft.

To such a pitch has this lawless desire for proficiency in crime reached, that the sexes are divided and a regular method pursued of initiating these would-be scholars in the rudiments of the game; those showing special aptitude being retained as a picked lot, while those who seem hopelessly virtuous are rejected, much to their own chagrin.

One of the most run after of this fraternity, as an expert teacher, is the woman known as the "Queen of the Forty Thieves," and she consented to partly enlighten me (writes a representative) as to some of the rules which govern her selection of aspirants.

"It is quite true," she began with a complacent smile, "that I deserve my title of 'Queen of the Forty Thieves' and I feel like a mother to every one of them. Many I have trained from their childhood upwards, and I am sure I am always willing to let them profit by my experience. You see, nobody can succeed for long in thieving if they try to work alone. You must have confederates, and the more the safer."

"And mark me, the girls make the best in the long run, because they are by nature slyer than men, and having once slipped themselves, there is little fear of their rounding on their mates. Besides, there is a fascination in the danger of it, which seems to get into the very blood of what, I suppose, you would call the crooked-minded. That is, if you choose the right sort."

"Fifteen is the best age to begin to train them, and never take one without first finding out if she does not inherit a tendency to be lightfingered from one or both of her parents. I also always look at their hands; the thief's mark must be plain, or they are not worth the trouble and risk of training. I make mistakes sometimes, though."

"A girl once came to me, having been dismissed from her first situation for pilfering and, begged me, as her character was gone, to take her on trial. I examined her hands and refused. She went away in a rage. A few months later, she returned with some

jewels, which she had stolen in a particularly deft way. She offered them to me as payment for tuition. I wavered, and made inquiries about her parents. They were hopelessly honest, so I persisted in my refusal."

"Two years after, the papers were ringing with the news of an audacious burglary, and certain men were convicted and sentenced. But we knew that she was the mainspring of the whole affair, and in triumph she brought me some of the spoils. I made her show me her hands. The thief mark was now there. I suppose it was in her blood somehow, and ambition and despair developed it. She has never been caught yet."

"And are you kind to them?"

"I stand to reason we have to be. We must make it worth their while to want to stay with us; and there never was such a time when so many inducements were held out to be honest. What with refuges and shelters, and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, we have to mind our P's and Q's, I can tell you. If they are kind, we have to be kinder; we must fight them with their own weapons; and to their shame, the girls always declare the food and clothes are better with us than with honest folk, who think anything good enough for a 'slavey.'"

"Our plan is this: We evade inspectors by apparently apprenticing the girls to dressmakers or to shopkeepers who are in the swing. We give the girl's food, lodging and clothes for three months, and in that time see what they are fit for. Then they are taught pocket-picking, stealing trifles from shops, to practise telling lies with a straight face and inventing plausible excuses on the spur of the moment. Girls are very sharp that way. I find, if they get caught and are sent to a reformatory, I seldom take them again even if they apply, though they often do a little on their own account when opportunity offers. But they are ruined for our purposes. The clergyman has generally got hold of them, and you never know when a fit of repentance will come on and spoil a neat 'crib.'"

"One thing you may be glad to know; we do our best to keep them sober, for you cannot trust them if they take to drink. And one of their chief uses is as messenger from one gang to another, when they want all their wits about them. Of course, their nerves have to be tested. We wanted to cure a girl of shrieking when startled, so we put her to sleep in a cellar, and pushed a rat in under the door about midnight. She died of fright!"

"But another was too sharp for us. She wanted to be revenged on one of her mates who had played her false, and when the police made a raid on the place, she initiated a parrot in the room so perfectly that all were deceived. Poll kept apparently saying: 'Look in the beerjug, my dear.'"

"They looked, and found at the bottom of the jug the missing notes. It was years before she confessed the trick."

"My line? I thought everyone knew that; it is stealing kids for a ransom; and if people would only come to us instead of the police, and make it worth our while, it would save them a lot of trouble."

## AN ALLEGED ADVENTURESS.

At the London Police-court, Catherine Louise Lovat Fraser, "alias" Lovat, "alias" Mrs. Rothschild Owen, twenty-three, no fixed abode, no occupation, was charged on remand with stealing a dress, value £5. At the previous hearing it was stated that the prisoner had obtained hundreds of pounds by falsely representing that she was niece to Lord Lovat, and married to a member of the Rothschild family.

Mr. Williamson, of the Treasury, now appeared to prosecute; Mr. Jones defended; and Detective-Sergeant Collins and Detective Duggan appeared for the police.

Mr. Williamson said that the first charge against the prisoner was one of stealing a dress from Miss Hickman, a Court dress-maker, of Francis-street, Tottenham Court-road. On April 8th the prisoner, going to Miss Hickman and ordered this dress, giving the name of Kate Lovat Fraser, and an address in Gower-street. The price of the dress was to be £5, cash on delivery, and the prisoner told Miss Hickman that she should soon want a number of more dresses, as she was shortly to be married to a barrister. A day or two later the prisoner called again, and saying that she had been called away into the country to see a friend who was ill, asked Miss Hickman to send the dress to her at Charing-cross station that evening.

The dress was accordingly sent by an assistant, but the prisoner, on receiving it, said that she had not the money with her, but Miss Hickman knew her, so that it would be all right. The assistant replied that she could not leave the dress without the money, without Miss Hickman's consent. Upon this the prisoner said she could wait while she went back to see Miss Hickman.

The assistant went off, but when she returned, the prisoner had gone with the dress, and Miss Hickman never received payment for it. The address in Gower-street proved to be a boarding-house which she had left a fortnight before, leaving a bill unpaid, and it was not true that she was going into the country, and on leaving Charing-cross station the prisoner went direct to an address in Regent-street, where she was at that time staying with a friend.

Evidence was given in confirmation of this statement. Mr. and Miss Esmond, the lady with whom the prisoner stayed in Regent-street, stated that she remembered the prisoner bringing this dress home. She never wore it, and when she left, owing witness £46 for board and lodging, witness kept the dress until she delivered it to the police.

The prisoner was committed for trial on this charge, and Mr. Williamson then proceeded to detail some out of a number of cases in which the prisoner had obtained goods from tradespeople by false pretences. He stated that she was the daughter of a Methodist minister in North Wales, and there was no doubt that for a long time she had been living by defrauding tradespeople. On March 8th the prisoner went to the shop of Messrs. Harvey, Nicholls and Co., Knightsbridge, where she gave the name of Fraser, stating that she had just returned from France in mourning for her brother, Dr. Fraser, and that she was staying with her aunt in Queen's Park-gardens. She ordered goods to the value of £20 9s. 9d., which were to be paid for on delivery.

The goods were delivered, but in some way payment was not given. The prisoner's brother and aunt were fictitious characters, and the address in Queen's Park-gardens was that of a boarding-house where the prisoner had taken a room for two or three days, no doubt solely for the object of getting these goods.

In May last the prisoner went to Mme. Novice and Co., milliners, Victoria-street, where she represented herself as niece to Lord Lovat, of Beaulieu Castle, Inverness, and during May, June, and July, obtained goods from them to the value of £37. During that time she engaged a room for two days at the Grand Hotel, Charing-cross, and wrote to them from there, stating that she was staying there with her uncle, Lord Lovat, and his party.

In July the prisoner went to Messrs. Wooland Brothers, Knightsbridge, and represented to them that she was niece to Lord Lovat, and had property from which she derived an income. She obtained goods from them to the value of £48 odd, and gave as her address Beaufort Castle, Beaulieu, and Mulwood, Inverness-shire. Mr. Williamson was proceeding to further cases, but Sir James Vaughan said that he thought the three detailed would be sufficient.

Mr. Williamson added that the prisoner had been living in very good style, and driving to these shops in hired carriages, for which she never paid. She

occupied a furnished flat in James-street, Victoria, for which she actually did pay £40, as it was necessary for her to have a good address, but it seemed that this sum was obtained from a money-lender at exorbitant interest, and that it had never been repaid. In September last the prisoner appeared to have taken a furnished house at Thames, Ditton, at a rent of £3 a week calling herself Mrs. Rothschild Owen. She never paid any rent, and, moreover, defrauded all the tradespeople in the neighbourhood and at Surbiton.

The prisoner was remanded.

## DO ANIMALS REASON?

AFTER more than twenty years' experience in the training of horses, dogs, lions, and other animals, Professor L. Leon declares that the result of his experience justifies the statement that none of the lower animals possesses intelligence. None of them, he says, has ever performed a noble action, and is utterly without the power to do so.

In making this broad statement Professor Leon shows the necessity of an exact understanding of the two terms as given by the best lexicographers. Instinct, he says, is doing that which an animal does through natural feeling or by reason of hard training, without any knowledge of the effect, or result of his action. Intelligence is the power that leads man to perform an act as the result of reason from some former or similar condition or circumstance.

Proceeding on this basis he admits that man has instinct as well as intelligence, but in a lesser degree than animals. Man has the added power of reason, however, which the lower animals have not.

"A dog and a horse, as well as other animals, have excellent memories," said Professor Leon to a Daily Mail representative, "and can be readily trained to the performance of certain tricks, which appear to be the result of intelligence. If you stop to analyse this, however, you will see that it is only the exercise of the power of memory. The dog or the horse has no knowledge of the result of its performance."

To prove this statement Mr. Leon cites many instances that have come under his personal observation. The dog, he considers as possessing the highest form of animal sagacity, except perhaps the monkey, but as knowledge of this animal is as yet so meagre he prefers to take the dog as the highest specimen of animal life.

"It is easy to teach a dog," Professor Leon says, "to obey signs, signals, or words such as 'fetch,' or 'carry' 'close the door,' or 'open the door,' but the dog has no knowledge of the meaning of the words in any connection apart from the command."

"He may, too, be just as easily taught to shut the door when commanded to open it, or lie down when told to stand up. That, in fact, is exactly the way 'clown' dogs, and horses are taught. I have a St. Bernard dog, Caesar, that is noted for his tricks, and I have made many experiments with him to see, if possible, whether he could go beyond the limit of instinct. I remember some time ago I was walking along the banks of the Surrey Canal with Caesar, whom I had frequently trained to go and fetch things out of the water."

"Suddenly a little child fell into the canal from a bridge just ahead of us. I at once called the dog's attention to the child in the water, and said, 'Fetch it, Caesar.' He started for the floating body, caught it in his jaws, and swam back to within a foot of the bank. Then he loosened his grip and stood looking up at me. He was waiting for me to throw the child back into mid-stream again as he had seen me throw sticks."

"He had no idea at all that the child was drowning, and would have drowned had I not gone into the water myself and dragged it out, nor did he realise that the bundle of limp rags was anything other than the usual stick that he had been accustomed to 'fetch.' He was lauded by people as a noble creature who had saved the child's life, yet neither he nor any other dog ever attempted to save a child's life unless he had been previously trained to retrieve."

Professor Leon tells another story of hooking the end of a walking stick into the rails of an iron fence, and then commanding a dog to go back and get it. He went back, and tugged at the cane without being able to release it. Then he chewed the stick in two and brought one half in his mouth. Commanded to return, he tried again to pull the stick away, but never attempted to give it the simple turn that readily released it when applied by man.

Professor Leon gives his animal friends full credit for the use of their instincts, and says they often make better use of them than man does with his reasoning powers. A horse, he says, will never drink more than is good for him, and yet a man, when his instinct tells him that he has had enough drink attempts to reason out that he can stand more and takes it, to his physical detriment.

"If the horse possesses one-tenth of the intelligence the world gives him credit for," Professor Leon concluded, "he would be driving people about in traps instead of people driving him."

## PROPOSED JUNCTION OF RUSSIAN AND INDIAN RAILWAYS.

THE "Novoe Vremya" discusses the Anglo-Russian problem in Afghanistan and Persia in connection with a proposal for uniting the Russian Central Asian Railway, just extended from Merv to the Kushk, with the Indian North-Western line which would probably be prolonged from Chaman through Kandahar and Herat at the Russian frontier. The "Novoe Vremya" calls it an English proposal, but in reality, says the "Times" correspondent in sending the article, we know it to be a Russian one, ventilated in the Press by certain well-known Russians interested in improving the relations between England and Russia on a commercial basis. The idea is, in fact, due, in the first instance, to General Annenkoff's project for uniting the Transcaspian and the Indian railways, which was put forth here many years ago. In any case the writer chooses to consider it as an English invitation to be considered in regard to the advantages which would accrue to Russia from a realization of the scheme. In the first place, Russia would have to throw open Central Asia to Anglo-Indian manufactures and products, and if she established high duties against British trade a development of contraband would be the result. During the last eight years Russian trade has been gaining ground in Afghanistan while that of British India has been falling off. This trade would inevitably be lost to Russia if the Indian railways were prolonged through Afghanistan, and British goods would also be able to reach the markets of Northern Persia, much more easily than by way of the Karun. The junction of the railway would also facilitate the introduction of cholera and plague into Russia. It would thus be to Russia's detriment on political, economical and sanitary grounds. There could only be two advantages to Russia and those of a very problematical character, namely—an insignificant revenue from the transit of goods and increased facility for striking at India, but Russia only requires a southern outlet to the ocean and does not wish to invade India. On the other hand, the advantages for England would be much greater. The prolongation of the Indian Railway to the Russian frontier through the Khanates of Kandahar and Herat would mean a war with Afghanistan. England can never cope with Abdurrahman Khan alone and would like to have Russia's assistance; but an Afghan war would be entirely opposed to Russia's policy of peace in the East. It would in all probability lead to a general Mahomedan rising, which might spread beyond the bounds of Afghanistan, Russia would willingly meet England half way in a mutual agreement in regard to Asiatic Affairs, but not by any concession of her own interests and not without exactly defining the extent of such an understanding.

## A MILLIONAIRE'S MANSION.

ACCORDING to a New York correspondent one of the most important social events of the present year will be the opening of the new mansion of Mr. William G. Whitney, the well-known millionaire, recently erected in Fifth-avenue. No other residence in America—few, indeed, in the world—rival it in point of magnificence. Mr. Whitney ransacked Europe, securing valuable bronzes, paintings, miniatures, and ceramics, while eminent artists and sculptors were engaged in the interior decorations, the painted ceilings alone costing £10,000. The gorgeous drawing-room will contain famous antique tapestries formerly hung in the Louvre, for which Mr. Whitney paid £200,000. The magnificent furniture is of teakwood, beautifully carved. The paintings, bronzes, and china are of equal splendour. A regal suite of rooms has been arranged for Mrs. Whitney, who is an invalid. The walls of the boudoir are hung with a silk fabric costing six guineas a yard. The furniture made in France, has cost £10,000. The bath-room is built of the finest Carrara marble, relieved by onyx and other rare stones. The bath is cut from a single block, and the floor is composed of rare mosaics. The bath taps and other metal work are made of pure gold of unique design. All the other fittings of the house are on the same sumptuous scale.

## ENGLISH NOTES.

WE understand that the meeting of Liberal members for the election of a successor to Sir William Harcourt in the leadership of the House of Commons has been arranged for Monday, Feb. 6—the day before the assembling of Parliament. The place of meeting will most likely be the Reform Club, but this point has not yet been definitely settled.

HERR AUGUST MULLER, editor of the Social Democratic *Volksstimme*, of Magdeburg, has been sentenced to terms of imprisonment of four years, one year, and one month for a libel on the German Emperor and Prince Eitel Fritz, though he proved he was not in the editorial office on the day when the number in question appeared. The sentence has made some sensation, as the highest penalty for *lese-majeste* is five years.

GENERAL SIR ARTHUR COTTON, R.E., K.C.S.I., who resides at Dorking, is now in his ninety-sixth year. He is still able to walk and has good health, which he attributes to abstinence from alcoholic drinks and smoking, and to his eating much less than is usual among Englishmen. When a child he was far from strong, and was not expected to reach manhood. The aged general states that he has since been "sentenced to death" by doctors on four occasions and that his grave was dug in Persia six y-five years ago.

ENCAVATIONS on the site of the Forum have led to the discovery of the column which, according to Suetonius, was originally erected in honour of Julius Caesar on the spot on which his remains were cremated. The column was subsequently thrown down, and its pedestal was removed on the order of Augustus to the temple then being built, and it was during the removal of the rubbish accumulated on the site of this temple that the pedestal was brought to light. The excavators of the position of the Temple of Vesta have discovered the site of the Cella Penaria, in which the ashes of the sacred fire were preserved, and whence they were conveyed once a year, in solemn procession, to the Capital.

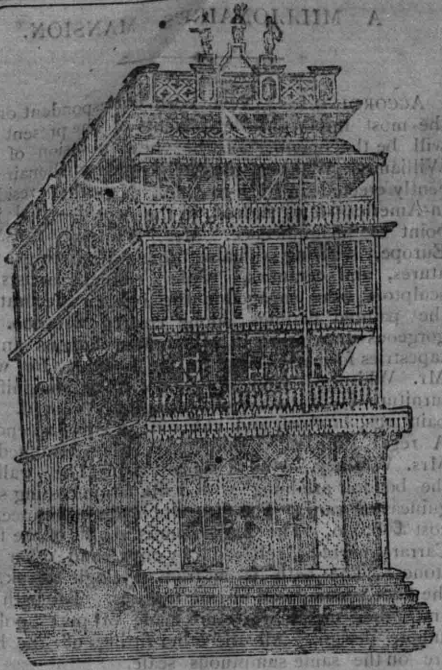
A SCENE memorable in the annals of the weaving industry was witnessed at the Vienna Technical Art Museum on Jan. 11. Herr Jan Szczepanik, the famous young inventor, presented the Emperor Francis Joseph with the first web produced by means of his new photographic process. Dr. Harowitz, describes the web as about two square metres in size and states that it gives an allegorical representation of homage to the Emperor. The work contains 200,000,000 crossings, 120 silk threads filling one centimetre. Two hundred square metres of pasteboard cards would have been necessary to produce this web according to the present method, and designers would have required many years to carry out the work. Now the designer is abolished, and the work was done in five hours.

ANOTHER discovery, which will have great interest for students of the history and remains of Ancient Rome, has been made in the extensive excavations which Signor Baccelli, Minister of Public Instruction, is conducting in the Roman Forum. To the east of the Rostra Julia, about the middle of the Forum, was found the celebrated Nige Lapis—namely, the black stone marking the spot, so famous in the legends surrounding the earliest history of the Eternal City, where Romulus should have been buried. It will be remembered, however, that he was translated, becoming a god, and Quirinus Faustulus, the shepherd who brought him up, was therefore buried there, together with his grandfather, Quintus, who gave his name to the descendants of Romulus, the Quinctilia clan. The discovery is not yet public property, but the Minister of Public Instruction and archaeologists have already verified it.

A RATHER striking story has come to the London correspondent of the *Western Daily Mercury* illustrative of the tenacity with which Lord Kitchener carries out his purpose. During his recent sojourn in this country he entered into personal communication with most of the great firms engaged in the manufacture of railway-plant with a view to securing construction immediately of the bridge and is to span the Atbara. The answer given by all the firms was pretty much the same—they were quite full of orders, and could not guarantee delivery before July at the earliest. To an ordinary official this would have been conclusive evidence that the plan would have to be abandoned. But the organiser of conquest in the Sudan is not an ordinary official. Being himself balked in his project in England, he immediately on his arrival cast about for a means of the difficulty. He found there in dismantling an iron bridge which had been a duty on the Egyptian railways for a score of years or more, and finding still serviceable he promptly annexed it already on its way to the Atbara erected over the river.

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reading of the Kh





Novelty in Ayurvedic Medicine.

KAVIRAJ, NOGENDRA NATH SEN'S  
Ayurvedic Pharmacy,

18-1, Lower Chitpore Road, Tattai Bazar  
CALCUTTA.

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