

THE END OF GERMANY.

Whispering Prophecy Predicts That Something Shocking Will Soon Strike the Nation.

A number of prophets have of late sprung up in Germany, and a feeling of superstition has arisen there which no officialism has been competent to quell.

In the northern provinces folk are whispering the famous prophecy of the monk, Hennis, who, several centuries ago, announced that one day the Hohenzollern dynasty would be re-established, but that the third emperor of this great family would come to a violent end and that the dynasty would fall with him.

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Of course, many people will smile at these prophecies, and yet one cannot help remembering that France was overrun with supernatural stories during the year which preceded the Franco-German war.

Ruman himself, who was not a superstitious man, wrote, it may be remembered: "Throughout the history of the world, whenever great events have been about to happen, vague rumors, sometimes precise and nearly always unexplained, have warned nations of the dangers with which they are threatened."

"Well, you see, she comes here to rubber," and she came too early. The only way she can fill time is to find fault with what is being served.

"Some one never comes, and finally the order for some raw oysters or a salad is given, and if we serve them quickly the waiter gets a small tip.

"Ab, Miss Breeze," began the romantic young man, "I adore the beautiful. I am a lover of poetry. I am -"

English Luncheon Cake. Cream 1/4 cupfuls butter with the same of sugar, add three eggs, beat 1/4 cup milk, four cups flour, two cups currants, citron, if liked, one-half teaspoonful mixed spices and one teaspoonful soda. Bake one hour.—Boston Globe.

IS A STRONG NATION.

Japan a New Factor of Much Importance in World Affairs.

Has an Efficient Navy and a Powerful Army - Something About the Great Warships of Recent Construction.

In view of the agreement entered into between Great Britain and Japan, the "fighting strength" of our continental ally becomes a factor of considerable importance, says the London Chronicle.

The Japanese navy was organized entirely on the lines of the British navy. The following are the chief characteristics of the larger class of vessels: Length, 400 feet, with a breadth of 73 feet 6 inches, and main draught of 75 feet 6 inches; normal displacement, 15,500 tons; armament, four 12-inch 40-ton guns placed in pairs on two barbets situated forward and aft; 14 quick-firing 4-inch guns carried on the broadside, and 20 12-pounder quick-firing guns.

Of the armored cruisers the largest is the Asama, with a displacement of 9,750 tons, an indicated horse power of 19,000; armament, 4 8-inch quick-firing, 14 6-inch (Armstrong), and speed 22.1 knots.

Although Japan took England for a model in the building and manning of her navy, she went to Germany for the organization of her army. The military budget of 1901-2 provides for 13 divisions of the army, including the division of the guard, 25 infantry brigades, each of 23-battalion regiments, 17 regiments of cavalry (51, squadrons), 19 regiments of artillery (116 field and mountain batteries), 13 battalions of pioneers, comprising 28 companies (to be increased to 39 companies), 13 battalions of train of 2 companies each and the railway and telegraph battalion, each of 3 companies.

The peace strength in 1901-2 was 81,068 officers and 135,538 men, being a total of 216,606. The war strength (with 171 battalions, 43 squadrons and 71 batteries), was 392,220, with 1,098 guns, but this does not include all the reserves.

Newfoundland strangely appeals to the sportsman, whether he be devoted to the rod or the gun, and to a lover of the beauties of nature a day's outing in this rugged land is ample reward in itself, apart from the satisfactory basket or bag, as the case may be, which is certain to be secured.

A very homely man in Chicago has a very pretty daughter. One day she was sitting on his knee right before a looking glass. She contemplated the reflection of their two faces and then asked: "Papa, did God make me?"

The strength of woman is only 57 per cent. that of man.

GEN. KNOX' HOSPITALITY.

The Homecoming of George Washington's Secretary of War on Independence Day, 1795.

A local historian of Thomaston, Me., describing the arrival of Gen. Knox in that town, says: "The year 1795 is a memorable epoch in the history of this town and the adjacent country; made so in consequence of the resignation of Maj. Gen. Henry Knox, as secretary of war under Washington, and his removal to Thomaston."

"Unto this day there are extant many legends of the splendor of 'Montpelier,' as Knox dubbed his fine house, and the original cost of the building was variously reported to be anywhere between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

"Local tradition, which still lingers lovingly over the fittings and splendors of the Knox mansion, further sets forth the fact that 100 beds were made every day in that hospitable house. Abating much from these extravagant legends, it is evident that the Knox establishment, with its adjuncts of ship building, brickmaking, quarrying and farming, must have been a costly experiment in the hands of our generous and expansive Cincinnati.

"A pioneer to a certain extent, in the wilds of Maine, Knox was the first to introduce many features of social life that were novel in those parts. His wife's piano was the first brought into the region. His library, which was the second largest in Maine, comprised nearly 1,600 volumes, of which about one-fourth were in the French language.

"His entertainments were on a great scale, as his Thomaston house greatly exceeded in size the domicile which he occupied in the bowery lane, New York.

And she got it from a willing physician at the rate of five dollars an hour.

"When Dr. Pills went abroad," said the young physician, according to the Washington Post, "he left me in charge of his practice, and opposite one address in his book he made a mark—I won't say what it was—but it meant that I was to call at that house every day, without fail.

"Every time I went to see her I found her in a different toilet. Even the quilt was never alike two days in succession. There was absolutely nothing the matter with her but what I may call heart ennui. She was rich, but she hadn't anything in the world to interest her. Her husband and sons were good to her, but that is all. They didn't pet her nor make of her. She was simply pining for a little sympathy. It diverted her to see me come in.

"It pleased her to be able to talk about herself to somebody who would listen. She gained in her own estimation from having her pulse felt every day. She wanted the doctor to play her day for her. Some days I ordered her to drive in a closed carriage. Other days I told her a drive in her victoria would do her a world of good. I always cautioned her to wrap up well. I gave her sympathy and attention, and I made her feel that she was an object of interest to at least one person.

Better Work Later. A very homely man in Chicago has a very pretty daughter. One day she was sitting on his knee right before a looking glass. She contemplated the reflection of their two faces and then asked: "Papa, did God make me?"

PLEA FOR PURE FOOD

It is the Ill-Fed Man with Nerves Who Commits Crimes.

General Awakening of the Government to the Injury Wrought by Imitations and Adulterations in the Various States.

The twentieth century will undoubtedly be the era of pure foods throughout the civilized world, for there has been a general governmental awakening to the fact that markets are flooded with the most injurious adulterated food stuffs, both solids and liquids, a menace to human health, says What to Eat.

Heretofore people have gone blind through life, knowing less about the A B C of health than of any other subject. The child learns in some schools, not all, that he has bones, muscles, veins and arteries, flesh and cuticle, and gets a smattering idea of the proper foods. What he does not get, but what the new century will see him learning, is a perfect knowledge of the nutritive value of different foods, their effects on the human system, how to detect adulterated foods and a true knowledge of their injurious effects.

That the pure food movement will succeed is best indicated by the fact that the manufacturers of pure foods have enlisted in the cause of health and careful study. Men of science and learning and wide experience in the manufacture of foods have experimented and tried until they have found the ideal nourishment.

Explosion Gases at Martinique. Prof. A. E. Verriell, of Yale, regards the phenomena witnessed during the awful eruption of Mont Pelée in May as bearing out the theory that immense quantities of explosive gases were evolved through the dissociation of oxygen and hydrogen from the water on coming suddenly into contact with hot lava, and that these gases, when ejected into the atmosphere, exploded above the crater, producing the terrible effects that were noted.

Sale of Scriptures in Japan. Thirty years ago in Japan the Scriptures were printed secretly and copies were sent out only after dark. Those who were engaged upon this work did it at the risk of their lives. Now there is a printing company in Kokohama issuing the Scriptures, not only in Japanese, but in Chinese, Tibetan, Korean and two dialects of the Philippine Islands.

Thoughts Not Cheap. Newed—A penny for your thoughts, darling. Mrs. Newed—O, they will cost you more than that. "What were you thinking about?" "The dress I ordered yesterday."—Stray Stories.

GUARD THE WILD FLOWERS.

A Valuable Lesson Which the Week May Learn from the Experiments of the West.

Considering that the American people spend over \$18,000,000 a year on roses, violets and other greenhouse products raised by 5,000 florists of this country, irrespective of the probably larger sums that are paid to seedmen and plant growers for public and private gardens, it is evident that an interest is felt in flowers.

The result of this has been to almost exterminate certain of the wild flowers that used to make the upper end of Manhattan gay and that were not unknown on the edge of Brooklyn.

These facts have prompted the Misses Phelps-Stokes to give \$3,000 to the New York botanical garden for investigation and the preservation of native plants. The interest on this fund will be paid out in prizes for essays and studies relating to the subject, which shall be expanded to mean not merely herbaceous plants, but vegetation of all sorts, including trees. These essays are to be not over 1,200 words long, and must naturally have some practical consequences.

While this is very well and will do its part in educating the public to a more sensible enjoyment of nature and its advantages, and may restrain our barbarians in the practice of smashing, tearing and destroying what they care little for themselves, and will prevent others from enjoying at all, it would seem as though a small sum might be used to advantage in the cultivation of wild flowers and the dissemination of their seed, bulbs or cuttings in such secluded parts of the city as would insure a chance of their survival.

From all parts of England and much of the continent of Europe comes news of the destruction of life caused by the incessant summer rains, reports the London Spectator. They have not only been extraordinarily heavy, but have lowered the temperature to an unusual degree, adding to the plague of wet the further plague of cold.

It is a curious fact that wet weather is quite as fatal to young water fowls as to land birds. Mr. J. G. Millais in his fine work just published on the "Surface-Feeding Ducks," says that though the little ducklings will play for hours on the water when it is under them, they succumb in a very short time to rain falling on their backs. He is, we believe, the first naturalist to point this out, and illustrates it by a most charming drawing of several old wild ducks, who have brought their broods to shore at the first sign of a shower, and are not "mothering" them as a hen does by sitting over them, but stand up with their backs to the rain, and opening their wings hold them out on either side, making a kind of curtain or screen for the little ones to shelter in front of.

A quite distressing instance came under the writer's own notice last week of the death of little cygnets, due partly to the weather, partly to the very limited brains of the swan. The bird hatched on Saturday, bringing out four sweet little cygnets, covered with gray down and with the brightest black eyes, one infertile egg only remaining out of five. The rain poured nearly all Saturday, and the cygnets could not be taken into the water or be allowed to find food. One got out of the nest and remained exposed during the ceaseless rain of the night. Next morning it was found dead, and the others were probably weakened by the want of food. Two of them got out into the cold, wet grass next day, where cock swan found them and covered them. Finally, the hen bird, in taking them to the river, led them into a muddy puddle of very cold water, where all three died in about half an hour, a melancholy end to such bright little creatures.

OUR PENSION LAWS

The Government's Liberality Towards Old Soldiers.

As Compared with the Laws of Other Countries, Those of America Are Far Above-Administration and Requirements.

The amount estimated as necessary for the payment of our pensions for the coming fiscal year is \$139,800,000. As compared with the appropriation for the present year this sum shows an estimated decrease of \$5,500,000. Compared with the pension expenditures of other governments, as based on the figures of the last two years, it is more than double the total of all of them put together, says a Washington report.

In the first place, there are few countries in which the regulations under which applications may be filed are as favorable as they are in this country. Great Britain refuses to entertain any application from an officer for a pension for a wound unless he applies within five years after receiving the wound; in Japan the maximum time is three years, and in Switzerland one year from the time the disability was incurred.

Very different from these requirements are those of the pension law of the United States, with no limitation as to the time of application, no term pensions and no annual examinations. A civil war soldier is fully at liberty to seek a pension to-day for wounds or disability incurred in 1862; and if he can trace the origin of a disability to his army service the pension is granted, although for 40 years he has failed to make any claim on the government for assistance. It may be that the applicant is occupying a remunerative federal position; if so, that fact will not be considered in adjusting the claim or in paying the pension.

In Japan, however, a pension is suspended during the time of government employment. In this country the pension roll has included members of the cabinet and of congress.

Increase the pensioner desires to leave his country, either permanently or for a term of years, how is such a departure looked upon by the various governments? Under the law of Serbia such a pensioner ceases to receive aid from the government. The Argentine Republic pays him for two months only. In Peru the right to a pension is forfeited if the beneficiary remains abroad two years. France, Austria and Greece permit residence abroad by express consent of the government only. England requires pensioners to obtain leave to go outside the country, and provides for a reduction of the pension after three years' absence, with its entire forfeiture if the pensioner is under 50 years of age; between the ages of 50 and 60 the pension may be commuted. With the exception of a law that was in operation from 1893 to 1905, the United States have made no distinction between pensioners resident abroad and those resident in the United States. Last year this government paid \$641,161.65 to 4,547 pensioners residing in foreign countries.

Handy Book of Insults. Herr Schuch, a German author, has compiled a dictionary of 2,500 insulting expressions, carefully tabulated, indexed and classified. The work, on which Herr Schuch has spent years of labor, is called the Schimpfwörter Lexikon and is divided into five general heads—insults for men, insults for women, insults for either sex, insults for children and collective insults for syndicates, groups and corporations. Herr Schuch, with that minute discernment of the searching German, has subdivided these classes into smaller ones, so that when one wishes to call his friend or enemy a name it needs but a short consultation with the book to find the exact epithet or phrase which will fit the case. This work would have been invaluable to Mississippi river pilots in the old days, and even now the teamster may regard it as a welcome addition to his library.—Chicago Chronicle.

Telephones Are Indispensable. The growth of the telephone business has been enormous in recent years. The statement has been made that there are now in use in this country upward of 3,400,000 telephone instruments, and that a great majority of these have been put in place during the past ten years. More than 200,000 telephones have been placed in farmhouses within a few years. The increase in farm telephones is proportionately greater than in any other branch of the business.—Chicago Chronicle.

Many Heirs for Small Estate. An unmarried woman's estate of \$325.75 was lately distributed by a probate court of Indiana among 39 heirs. The largest amount anyone received was \$74, which went to surviving brothers and sisters. The smallest amount was \$3.09, the portion grandnephews and grandnieces received.—Chicago Chronicle.