NEWS NOTES.

(We do not necessarily indorse the opinions of our correspondents in the following notes.

Two young Russian officers attached to the Orsk infantry regiment recently quarrelled over their cups in a café chantant at Orenburg, and one of them struck the other across the cheek with his open hand. The subalterns were intimate comrades, and the aggressor made an ample and satisfactory apology when he came to his senses. This cordially accepted by his friend, but the regimental court of honour decreed that the officers should fight, and a duel was arranged with pistols. The young lieutenant who had received the affront and forgiven his friend was hit in the thigh and crippled, and consequently is unfitted for further service. The tragi-comical proceedings of these military courts of honour are as stupid as they are mischievous.

This most wonderful winter keeps up its character, and premature signs of spring are multiplying. The country is looking almost verdant, and the pastures are in some cases giving a good bite for cattle. The autumn-sown crops begin to assume that look which is known in the country as "winter-proud," and which is followed by deterioration after a spell of frost. Many farmers are beginning to prepare for the sowing of the spring crops. The present year affords an opportunity for the early sowing of barley, which is almost essential in our climate for a good and well-grown sample fit for malting purposes. Prices of corn still continue to harden, especially for English-grown samples, which are very scarce.

Mr. Alexander Macmillan, whose death is announced, had for some time ceased participation in the affairs of the well-known firm, but it was during his supervision, in conjunction with his brother Daniel, long since deceased, that the fortunes of the house were founded, and the high place it has attained among publishers assured. As with other great concerns it commenced in a comparatively small way, but like the mustard tree it grew strong and spread forth branches under which many authors have found shelter and solace. Mr. Alexander Macmillan possessed no mean literary attainments in addition to good business qualifications, and he received and retained the friendship of the many men of letters with whom he came into association.

The "Fortnightly Review" for February is a remarkably strong number politically, containing articles dealing with the German Emperor's fiasco, the Eastern Question, the Transvaal, and Venezuela. The whole of them are to the point, and written with full knowledge. One by a gentleman who adopts the pseudonym of "Genosse Aegir," which is but a play on the name of the Emperor's song, contains some very forceful truths the Germans would do well to ponder over, for it is quite evident that their Empire is nearing troublous times. Mr. Edward Dicey shows clearly that England's isolation, as it is called, is not an unmixed evil, although at the same time it has its dangers. Venezuela is dealt with by Mr. Thwaite, C.E., and Mr. Harry Whates. The latter writes with personal knowledge of the country, having lived there for some years, and his description of the land and the people who inhabit it is full of interest. Mr. Thwaite deals with the subject from an historical point of view. The two articles give all that is necessary to an adequate understanding of the question, which seems to interest the United States to an amazing degree.

The Abyssinians have given a proof of their sincere desire for peace with Italy, and of the generous sentiments which inspire their breasts. Considering their stage of civilisation it is highly creditable to them that they allowed Colonel Galliano and his force, which had been defending the fort of Makaleh, and which had been reduced to great straits by want of water, to march out with all the honours of war, and even provided transport for it and its wounded, to rejoin General Baratieri's headquarters. Nobler conduct is not recorded anywhere towards invaders, and we may even doubt whether it would be imitated in European warfare. Envoys are also coming in from the Abyssinians to treat for peace, and though the official mind in Rome seems bent on continuing the war until these chivalrous natives are crushed—whether by arms or by the imposition of severe terms—we are glad to learn that there exists in Italy a strong current in favour of the conclusion of peace. Italy, in fact, appears to be coming to the sensible conclusion that the game is not worth the candle.

English footballers can congratulate Wales on her victory over Scotland with a full heart and an open mind. In the first place it really was a famous victory; for the Welshman had been demoralised by their crushing defeat by England at Blackheath, and had felt it necessary to adopt the perilous expedient of playing a lot of entirely new men among the forwards. It was in this part of the game that Scotland was expected to be stronger and heavier, and inasmuch as victory in the important matches of the last two seasons has leaned to the side of the "big" battalions, few people expected Wales to do more than make a good fight. She made so good a fight that she won, and if it were not for the consistent inconsistency of international football—of which this match has furnished the latest example—the result would make England's chances of becoming champion country once again look roseate as the morn. But Scotland has an awkward knack of pulling herself together after a defeat, and, counting the match with England of far more importance than the others, will make a desperate struggle to win it.

Perhaps the most interesting passage in Mr. Chamberlain's speech at Birmingham is his reference to the possibility of joint action on the part of Britain and the United States to rescue the Armenians from Turkish misrule. We have travelled a long way in the last few weeks. Before Christmas the danger of a war between the two branches of the Anglo-Saxon family seemed, even to the coolest observers, too serious to be scouted. That danger, it is now safe to believe, has almost completely vanished. Mr. Chamberlain, echoing opinions on the other side of the Atlantic, has suggested one particular direction in which common action might be taken by the two countries. It is an attractive idea, and all men of our race who are sick of the loathsome tales of barbaric cruelty which mock the concert of Europe would be glad if it could be realised. Unfortunately the obstacles which have made it impossible for England to interfere alone would hardly disappear even if the Stars and Strides streamed beside the Union Jack. But beyond this immediate occasion for joint action lies the hope that the day may come when the two nations will recognise that they are members of the same family, resolved steadily to act together on any and every occasion in the interests of the peace and good government of the world.

By the death of Lord Leighton the nation loses the artist whose name is probably best known to the greatest number of English-speaking people, and among all people is associated with what is best and sanest in English art. No man can ever be said to represent Art—whether it be English Art or the Art of a period; but in the highest and most distinguished sense Lord Leighton was representative of that beloved Academy the presidency of which he honoured as much as it honoured him. Of his own art and of his place among painters this is neither the time nor the place to speak critically. He was the master and the servant of what the critics who are not painters call the classical tradition; and he served his ideal faithfully and reverently. Something of the same generosity that was visible in him as a man was obtable in him as an artist; and the same finish and grace that were characteristic of his public utterances were noticeable in his handiwork. He was one of Art's courtiers, and the Academy and his fellow painters have lost in him a friend who commanded esteem as he deserved regard.

The proposal of the Government to close a portion of the sea area of the Solent for the purposes of artillery practice from Fort Gilkicker is evoking an amount of opposition which could hardly have been anticipated. Not only is the County Council for the Isle of Wight vigorously opposing the proposal, but nearly every District Council in the neighbourhood has also entered into opposition; and most of the yacht clubs interested in Solent racing are forwarding protests. Undoubtedly the closing of the area suggested would seriously interfere with the traffic between the mainland and the island; it would spoil one of the most frequented fishing grounds in the Solent; and would cause an alteration to be made in many of the yacht-racing courses. Possibly, in view of the very general opposition which has been aroused, the Government may be able to find some less frequented water than the Solent for a practice ground for our soldiers.

The Clyde engineers returned to work on Monday, and there seems to have been no hitch of any kind in the rather delicate process of picking up the threads that were dropped so many weeks ago. We hope everything will now go smoothly on the Clyde. As to Belfast, the engineers appears to be still smarting under the treatment they have met with from the Executive Council, but the threats of organising a revolt against headquarters must not be taken too seriously. It is quite unlikely that many branches will lend themselves to a policy of mutiny. Discipline is not always pleasant to submit to, but it is very certain that no great trade union could go on long without the habit of loyalty to its self-appointed leaders. The refusal of the Belfast men to go back to work is perhaps rather due to pique than to the delay in reinstating the apprentices at Messrs. Barber's works. It has been explained that the boys will be taken back, but that there is not work for everybody at present.

The quadrangular chess match at St. Petersburg has concluded with the victory of Mr. Lasker, who thus regains the championship of the world, which he lost last September to Mr. Pillsbury at Hastings. English players are justified in rejoicing at the victory of Lasker, for, though he was born in Prussia, England is his adopted country, and has been his home from a time when he was almost unknown to fame. Mr. Steinitz, who takes the second prize, has done surprisingly well, seeing that he is close on 60 years old, and took first prize in a contest of masters as long ago as 1872. Messrs. Pillsbury and Tchigorin have both disappointed their supporters, the former after starting brilliantly.

To proposals for the establishment of a permanent Court of Arbitration to settle disputes between this country and the United States, objection if often made on the ground of the practical difficulties in the way. The real difficulty in the way of systematic arbitration is that of stirring both nations to the point of saying that a permanent Court of Arbitration shall be established. When we have got thus far the rest will quickly follow. Some questions, of course, would have to be reserved, and between Great Britain and any European Power the number of such questions might be rather large. But between the United States and ourselves almost every probable cause of quarrel could be reduced to an issue which, when fairly stated, both nations would regard as more suitable for a court of international justice than for a battlefield.

If we were a bellicose nation the fact that three hundred years ago this week Sir Francis Drake died at sea "on active service" would speed many a fiery appeal and fill the sails of many a stirring apostrophe. But, though we are not, we are not altogether insensible of the appropriateness of seasons, and as we are justly proud of our navy, especially at the present moment, we are not averse to regard its future in the light of its past. In that perspective "Drake's name stands out as the one that has been associated with almost as many legends as that of Arthur or Charlemagne." These are the words of his veracious biographer, who is sceptical as to the aforementioned legends. He admits, however, that Elizabeth "made Drake a visit on board" the Golden Hind at Deptford in 1581, "and there on the deck of the first English ship that had gone round the world did she knight the first man of any nation who had commanded through such a voyage." The record-breaking power of our sailors is not yet extinct.

A German military paper has been telling its readers that the impossibility of invading England is only a legend. "It has always been dared and never been impossible." Happily for us, these perfectly possible and brilliantly daring invasions have never, since the days of William the Conqueror, done us more damage than a few thousand pounds would pay for. While rejoicing in this past immunity, we are not fools enough, as the German writer appears to think, to fancy that a mere tradition makes us invulnerable. More than that, most thoughtful Englishmen have long ago recognised that the introduction of steam has materially altered the problem. At the beginning of the century Napoleon declared that with the command of the Channel for 24 hours he could have England at his feet. A modern Napoleon might be content with four. He could, at any rate, in that time throw across the Channel a far larger body of troops than we could immediately withstand. What might be the ultimate fate of those troops is an interesting problem in the science of war. We have, however, as a nation no desire to investigate that problem by actual experiment, and we are therefore resolved, cost what it may, that the command of the Channel shall not pass to any hostile fleet even for four hours.

The Indian burglar appears to possess much more ingenuity than his British compeer. In some instances, the Asiatic depredator displays real genius in baffling detection, as in a case lately reported at Suk-Saugor, in Lower Bengal. For some times burglaries had happened almost nightly without leaving the slightest clue for the police to follow up. It never occurred to them to suspect a venerable and saintly fakir, who with two disciples, recited prayers and solicited blessings by the road side, under a banyan tree. As for the neighbouring villagers, there was but one opinion among them, that the holy man conferred immeasurable benefits on the locality by taking up his residence there. He had the additional merit, not too common among religious beggars, of being most self-denying, refusing to accept gifts whether of food or money. The people thus had their spiritual needs attended to without payment, an arrangement which suited them admirably. Presently, however, there arrived a new police official whose suspicions somehow connected the public benefactor with the public depredator. A watch was accordingly set on the good old prophet, until one morning, when he and his disciples were seen returning to the banyan tree with large bundles. The new functionary thereupon ordered close search to be made round about, and in due course buried property was dug up to the value of 20,000 rupees. But the villagers bitterly regret the loss of the kindly old gentleman, and even charge the police with sacrilege for laying hands on his sacred but predatory person. No British burglar has ever succeeded in surrounding himself with such a halo of sanctity.

Another managing director of a building society has been committed to durance vile, in the person of Alfred Templeton Hawkins, of the National Dwellings Society. The prisoner had much to say about the serious state of his health, about his lost reputation and position, about his wounded soul, and the pain and agony inflicted on his dear wife. He should have thought of these things before, but he will have five years during which to meditate on them in the future. The case of Hawkins was all the worse on account of his high reputation, just as the case of the Liberator directors was all the worse because of the confidence reposed in them. The conviction was on four acts of fraudulent misappropriation of the company's money, and it was impossible to suppose that the prisoner did not know what he was doing. The case affords one more proof—if proof were needed—of the absolute necessity of a thorough, competent, and *bonâ-fide* audit of accounts. Had that taken place, the defalcations must have been checked at the outset.

THE TRANSVAAL SITUATION.

STATEMENT BY THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

The following has been issued by the Colonial Office: "A number of telegrams have been received within the last two or three days from British residents at Johannesburg by newspapers, Ministers of the Crown, and public men, representing the existence of a most alarming state of affairs at Johannesburg, including indignities to women and children, a possible stoppage of industry, &c. These telegrams are nearly all anonymous, and, although differently worded, contain some internal evidence that they emanate from one small group of persons, and, whilst Mr. Chamberlain does not consider that they give a true picture of the state of affairs in Johannesburg, he has thought it prudent to send telegraphic instructions to the British Agent at Pretoria to proceed to Johannnesburg and report on the state of affairs, and if he finds any immediate grievances capable of redress to draw the attention to them of the Government of the South African Republic, who, Mr. Chamberlain is confident, are able and willing to take such action, if any, as may be necessary. Mr. Chamberlain believes that the vast majority of persons in this country who are financially interested in the Rand are entirely opposed to any efforts to revive gratuitously the troubles at Johannesburg for political purposes, and that the majority of those on the spot who control the working of mines have no intention of stopping work in order to bring about a crisis; but there may be others among them who are of a different way of thinking; and this is an aspect of the matter which he recommends for the consideration of shareholders, directors, and all others whom it may concern."

ARMED BURGLARS CAUGHT.

A JEWELLER ATTACKED.

At Greenwich Police-court, on Saturday, William Carter, 22, of no home, was charged with being concerned with two others, not in custody, in stealing a gold chain, guinea, silver purse containing £3 10s., value £20, from the person of James Evans, jeweller, Lewisham, with violently assaulting Mr. Evans, and with the possession of housebreaking implements by night.—Detective-inspector Grimmer stated that on the previous evening three men entered the shop and called for Mr. Evans. They presented a revolver at him, and demanded the keys of his safe and his money. They then bound him by the arms and legs, took his watch and chain, and struck him a violent blow on the head rendering him unable to attend the court.—John Fletcher, plumber of Brockley, said that about a quarter-past 9 on Friday evening he heard a woman's cries and went to 97, High-street, where he saw three men in the kitchen, the door being open, and Mrs. Evans, the prosecutor's wife was there. Witness ran out and fetched a policeman, and afterwards saw the prisoner and two other men running away. When they saw him two ran into Lewis-grove and the prisoner up Belmont-hill. Witness pursued the prisoner, and in Granville-road noticed something in his hand. At the top the prisoner was tripped up by a man named Cripps, and was stunned. Witness seized and held him until a policeman arrived. He could not say if the prisoner was one of the three men in the prosecutor's kitchen. He had nothing in his hand when he was captured. He kept the prisoner in view all the way except for a second or two when he turned corners.—A police-constable said he saw the witness running after a man, and subsequently heard a whistle blown. He found the prisoner in charge of Fletcher and Cripps. The prisoner had a knife and candle in his possession. When charged he made no reply.—The prisoner declared that he had no housebreaking implements in his possession.—The Magistrate remanded him in custody.

MOBBING A CHINAMAN.

At a London Police-court, on Saturday, Charles O'Brien, 21, and Amelia Payne, 21, were placed in the dock, the former charged with assaulting John Acca, and the latter with attempted rescue and assaulting the police.—Prosecutor, who is the son of a well-known Chinaman, long resident in the neighbourhood, said he was waylaid and hustled by a gang of roughs in Great Peter-street as he was proceeding homewards early that morning. He struggled to get away, but O'Brien struck him a blow which knocked him down, and as he lay on the ground he was beaten about the body.—Touching the charge against the female prisoner, the police evidence was that when they rescued Acca and apprehended O'Brien, the girl interfered by endeavouring to drag him away. She kicked a police-constable on the leg, and was very troublesome.—The Magistrate sentenced the woman to six weeks' hard labour, and in remanding the man for a week expressed a hope that in the meantime some of the other ruffians concerned in the affair would be found by the police.

MR. BAYARD'S SPEECHES.

VOTE OF CENSURE.

The Committee of the House of Representatives appointed to consider the question of censuring Mr. Bayard for commenting on United States domestic politics in his speech at Edinburgh and Boston, met again at Washington on Saturday morning, and after a two hours' debate on a resolution censuring the Ambassador, adjourned until the afternoon. The Republican members of the committee endeavoured to prevail upon the Democratic members to agree to a mild expression of disapproval of Mr. Bayard's conduct. The Democrats, however, maintained that the matter was one with which the House of Representatives had nothing to do. The Republicans later reported by a strict party vote a severer resolution censuring Mr. Bayard, and declaring that it is improper for United States representatives abroad to condemn any political party or policy in America, and that such actions are calculated to destroy the influence and to impair the confidence which they should command both at home and abroad.

UNITED STATES SILVER BILL.

THE COAST DEFENCES.

The United States Senate on Saturday passed by 42 votes against 35 the Free Silver Bill reported by the Senate Finance Committee as a substitute for the Bond Bill passed by the House of Representatives without amendment. An amendment proposed by Senator Butler, to prevent any further bond issue without the authority of Congress and providing for the payment of coin obligations in silver when silver bullion is below its par value in gold was rejected by 60 votes against 13. Finally, an amendment proposed by Senator Lodge, providing for the issue of bonds for 100,000,000 dollars, for strengthening and extending the coast defences, was laid on the table without a division. After the adoption of the bill the Senate adjourned.

ATTACK ON THE KING OF PORTUGAL.

ARREST OF THE ASSAILANT.

As the King of Portugal was returning to the Palace in Lisbon from a drive in an open carriage, accompanied by an aide-de-camp, a stone was thrown at the vehicle by an Anarchist workman. The missile struck the aide-de-camp, who leapt from the carriage and ran after the assailant. The latter was promptly arrested by the police, and as he was being taken into custody shouted, "Long live the Socialist Revolution!" The King was made the object of demonstrations of sympathy on his escape.

At Dorchester a lad named Harold Woolley, son of a clergyman living at Burleston, was brought up in custody charged with arson. It is alleged that Woolley wilfully set fire to a rick, the property of a farmer named Homer. The prisoner made a statement to the police virtually amounting to an admission of the offence. He was remanded o bail.

LORD DUNRAVEN'S CHARGES.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The New York Yacht Club have issued the report of the Special Committee on the charges made by the Earl of Dunraven. The report, which has been printed in New York for the Club, is dated January 21st, and is accompanied by a verbatim report of the evidence taken at the inquiry, the whole forming a bulky volume of about 600 pages. It should be stated that the Committee confined their inquiries solely to the question of the charge of surreptitious changes in the ballasting of the Defender on September 7th, not deeming themselves authorised or called upon to investigate any other circumstances connected with this or the subsequent races between the same yachts, except so far as they might assist in determining the question dealt with. The report concludes as follows:—"Upon a careful consideration of the whole case the committee are unanimously of opinion that the charge made by Lord Dunraven, and which has been the subject of this investigation, had its origin in a mistake, that it is not only not sustained by evidence but is completely disproved, and that all the circumstances indicated by him as giving rise to his suspicion are entirely and satisfactorily explained. They deem it, therefore, but just to Mr. Iselin and the gentlemen concerned with him, as well as to the officers and crew of the Defender, that the committee should express emphatically their conviction that nothing whatever occurred in connection with the race in question that casts the least suspicion upon the integrity and proprietory of their conduct. And the committee are not willing to doubt that if Lord Dunraven had remained present throughout the investigation so as to have heard all the evidence that was introduced, he would of his own motion have withdrawn a charge that was so plainly founded upon mistake, and that has been so unfortunate in the publicity it has attained and the feeling to which it has given rise."

THE PANAMA LIST.

VERDICT AND SENTENCES.

The false Panama list of 104 Deputies published in the *France* was before the Assize Court of Moulins (France). The trial took place at the instance of the Procurator of the Republic, acting on a denunciation of ex-Deputy Labuissière, whose name was on the list. M. Labuissière was intervener. The Procurator of the Republic asked the jury to punish M. Colleville severely. M. Colleville published the libel on 104 persons in the *France* to create a sensation, and bring up for the nonce the circulation of the paper. He was an ex-Sub-Prefect, a defeated candidate for a seat in the Chamber of Deputies, a poet, and a romance writer. Counsel for the accused asked for an acquittal. His client, he admitted, published a lying libel, but he was in good faith. The jury found M. Colleville guilty, but with extenuating circumstances. He got off with a sentence of eight days' imprisonment. A worse fate, however, awaited the co-accused parties, M. Lalou, chief editor of the *France*, MM. Aubey and Calametti, and Vitrac-Desroziers, a former detective who sold the list to Colleville, and Pascal, formerly of the *Cocarde*. Lalou and Aubey made default, and were sentenced to six months', and Vitrac-Desroziers and Calametti, who also made default, to four months' imprisonment each and 6,000 francs fine.

MURDER OF A WOMAN.

SHIP'S FIREMAN CHARGED.

At the West London Police-court, Thomas William Cripps, 29, a ship's fireman, was charged with the murder of Elizabeth Ann Bailes, with whom he had been cohabiting, by cutting her throat with a razor in William-street, Nottingdale.—P.s. Everett said early that morning he was in Princes-road in the company of Police-sergeant Taylor, when he heard shouts of "Police" in William-street. They were the voices of two women. They told him that a woman was lying on the ground. He went there and saw her. He had since ascertained that her name was Elizabeth Ann Bailes. She had a wound in her throat, and blood was flowing freely. He sent Taylor for Dr. Jackson, the divisional surgeon, and remained with her some minutes, and then followed the stains of blood on the footway to 37, William-street, where he saw the deputy landlady. He followed her into a room on the ground floor. The room was in great confusion, and the furniture upset. There was a large pool of blood on the floor. The only occupant of the room was a little child about six months old. The child was taken charge of by the deputy. He went back to the woman, who was about 40 yards from the house. As soon as he arrived the prisoner came up, and said, "Here I am, copper, I done it, and I hope she'll die. I'll take a bit of rope for her." He took him into custody. On the way to the station the prisoner asked if she was dead, and hoped she would die. He also said, "I mean it. I paid 4s. out of my pocket through her yesterday, and meant to do it." I then took him to the station, where he was charged. In reply to the charge, he said, "I reserve my defence."—Dr. R. A. Jackson, the divisional surgeon, said he found a woman lying dead on the footway. She was removed to the station, and afterwards to the mortuary. He found on the right side of the neck an incised wound extending from the back of the ear across the throat eight inches in length, dividing the carotid artery and windpipe. On the left side of the throat there was an incised wound five inches in length.—The Magistrate remanded the prisoner for a week.

SHOCKING DEATH OF AN INFANT.

A child, nine months old, named Burford, whose parents live in the village of Bushbury, near Wolverhampton, met with a remarkable death. The child had been fastened by its mother, the wife of a mechanic, in a low chair, and was supplied with a quantity of milk in a feeding bottle. The mother proceeded with her domestic duties, and shortly afterwards heard the bottle fall and break, and on going to ascertain the cause, she saw the child fall on to the broken glass, with the result that its throat was cut so seriously that it died shortly afterwards. At the inquest the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

A FEN GHOST SCARE.

The inhabitants of the Fen district between Peterborough and Wisbech have been, it is reported, thrown into a state of great excitement of late by the report that an old farmhouse near Thorney was haunted, and that the residents, a farmer named Wilson and his wife, had been obliged to leave their abode. It appears that the inmates of the house were first made aware of the presence of the mysterious visitors by hearing several knocks on the door of the house, and this continued for some time, until matters got to be so unbearable and the wife became so upset that had she continued in the house serious consequences might have resulted. The "ghost" invariably commenced operations by a series of very gentle taps on windows and door, the force of the knocks gradually increasing until they finished up with a terrific crash which shook the house. The fame of the "haunted" house soon spread, and thousands of persons have visited the house, including several spiritualists, one or two taking up their abode in the house for the night, but being obliged to leave it before morning dawned. A school inspector who had been examining some children paid a visit to the farm out of curiosity, and the knocks were heard as he held the door open. This gentleman became so deeply impressed that he wrote to the neighbouring clergyman that "he was convinced it was a spiritual manifestation." Another gentleman from Wisbech, said to have the strongest nerves in the Eastern Counties, was obliged to take his departure from the house after hearing the knocks, and many persons from long distances, bent on investigation, have been unsuccessful in their endeavours to lay the "ghost."

At Jarrow-on-Tyne Thomas Dixon, aged 22 years, was committed for trial on the charge of having murdered Alexander M'Laren by shooting him with a revolver at Jarrow on the 18th inst.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

A porter named James Harris, employed on the Great Northern Railway, committed suicide at King's-cross station, London, by shooting himself.

A riot caused at Seville by the female hands at one of the cigar factories was more serious than was at first reported. Twenty-seven persons were injured, including a cavalry captain, several gendarmes, and a number of workmen.

A man named Alfred Stubbings, of independent means, living at Gurnard, Isle of Wight, blew out his brains with a gun. He sat in a chair and placed his forehead on the muzzle, and then managed in some way to pull the trigger.

According to the Paris *Journal*, it appears probable that the Czarevitch will remain at La Turbie until May 15 next, when he will return to Russia with the Dowager Empress.

There were in Vienna 389 suicides in 1894, and in 1895 there were 404, including those of 314 males and 90 females at ages varying from twelve to 87 years.

The Federal Council at Berlin have rejected the resolution adopted by the Reichstag on February 15th, 1895, requesting the Government to invite foreign Powers to an International Monetary Conference.

The fresh negotiations lately opened between the Porte and the Tobacco Régie on the basis of a prolongation of the concession to the Régie are approaching a conclusion. The Porte hopes by this means to obtain a loan of about £T2,000,000.

On Saturday the lifeless body of Mr. Robert Orme, of Leigh, near Southend, was found in the back part of his house. In his right hand was a bottle containing a small quantity of prussic acid.

It is intimated that all the inhabitants of the Galician village of Zazdrosz, near Trembowla, numbering 200 families in all, left there on Saturday for Brazil. Each family is provided with some thousand florins.

At the military hospital at Mons, on Sunday, a mad soldier armed with a knife suddenly attacked and killed two patients and mortally wounded three others before he could be overpowered.

In the provinces the charge for gas by companies varies from 6s. 8d. per 1,000 cubic feet in small Welsh towns to 1s. 10d. in Sheffield and York, and by local authorities from 8s. in Wales to 1s. 10d. in the Widnes urban district.

Mr. Justice Madden, sitting in the Irish Land Court, confirmed the sale to Lord Justice Lopes of the Handcock Estates, which comprise the greater portion of the town of Tuam, county Galway, and the extensive demesne of Currantrila Park and other lands adjoining, for £64,000.

The marriage of Mr. William Barry, son of Mr. F. Tress Barry, M.P. for Windsor, and Lady Grace Murray, daughter of the Earl and Countess of Dunmore, took place on Saturday at St. Andrew's Church, Wells-street, London. Nine bridesmaids, all gowned in white, followed the bride, who was given away by her father.

The Porte is endeavouring to obtain the extradition of Murad Bey, formerly Ottoman Commissioner on the Council of the Public Debt, who fled from Turkey some time ago, and is now in Egypt. The Egyptian Government has, so far, refused to accede to the request.

Lord Wallscourt, a well-known Irish peer, was married on Saturday to Miss May Palliser, daughter of the late Sir William Palliser, M.P., the inventor of the Palliser guns. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Dr. Ker Grey, of the Albemarle Chapel.

It is proposed that in future every officer promoted to surgeon-major-general's rank on the Army Medical Staff shall spend three years in that rank before retirement. This will obviate the difficulty occasioned by the constant change of medical officers of districts, which has been a fruitful source of complaint for some time past among general officers in command.

The German Emperor has conferred on Count d'Alvensleben, German Ambassador at Brussels, the order of the Red Eagle of the first class, with oak leaves. This high distinction is regarded in diplomatic quarters as a recognition on his Majesty's part of services rendered by the Count in connection with the settlement of the Stokes affair.

Collective actions for libel are now declared admissible in France, and 386 priests of the diocese of Tarbes are plaintiffs against the *Echo de Paris*. The trial is set down for hearing on February 15. Proceedings of the same kind are taken by 28 priests of the diocese of Annecy against two local papers for articles accusing one of their number, without giving his name, of immorality in the discharge of his pastoral duty.

A rare, but thoroughly well authenticated, phenomenon is announced from France. Madame Leger, wife of a resident of Blanzy, near Autun, is the mother of a child, of the female sex, with two perfect heads and one body. The infant has excellent health and every chance of living. A strange feature of the case is that the parish priest has been ordered by ecclesiastical authority to perform a double ceremony of baptism.

The New York *Herald* publishes a dispatch from its correspondent at Caracas, stating that he was arrested at La Guayra while taking photographs of the street. He was released after being identified, the judge explaining as the reason for arrest that he was informed many British spies were in the country for the purpose of obtaining photographs of the defences.

Sir Julian Pauncefort, the British Ambassador, on Saturday, at Washington, called upon Mr. Olney, Secretary of State, and submitted Great Britain's final acceptance of the arrangement according to which a Behring Sea Commission, to be appointed by Great Britain and the United States, shall pass judgment upon the claims of Canadian sealers seized by United States warships prior to the Paris award. It is considered certain that Congress will also approve the arrangement.

It is stated that the Czar has sanctioned the Russian Naval Estimates for the seven years from 1896 until 1902 inclusive. For 1896 the expenditure is estimated at 57,500,000 roubles, for 1897 at 58,000,000, for 1898 at 58,500,000, for 1899 at 59,000,000, for 1900 at 60,500,000, for 1901 at 60,000,000, and for 1902 at 60,500,000 roubles. These figures have been fixed in proportion to the naval forces of other States.

The Paris *Journal* has received a dispatch from Toulon stating that during firing practice by the Reserve Squadron at Salino d'Hyères, in which five torpedo-boats for the defence of Toulon took part, two of the latter collided. The impact was very violent, and both vessels had to return immediately to Toulon, where they were dry docked. Examination showed that they were seriously damaged and that the necessary repairs would take three months.

The Chief Constable of Cheshire (Colonel Hamersley) made a statement to the County Police authority at Chester Castle on Saturday in advocacy of the use of bicycles by police constables. He said that there were 202 officers able to ride, and that 83 were now in possession of bicycles. The committee decided that each constable using his own machine should be allowed twopence per mile, with a maximum for one day of four shillings. They also authorised the chief constable to purchase a bicycle for use at the headquarters at a cost not exceeding £15.

Branksea Castle, situated on Branksea Island, near Poole, Dorset, and owned by Captain Balfour, was almost completely destroyed by fire on Sunday.

On Saturday evening, after the last boat from Portsmouth to Ryde had steamed out of harbour, a well-dressed passenger jumped overboard. The steamer was at once stopped. The man's hat was seen floating on the water, but he himself had disappeared. In the pocket of a mackintosh which he left behind was some money and a first-class ticket from London.

A disgraceful scene was witnessed at Dover on the conclusion of the football match between Dover and Maidstone Invicta in the Kent League competition on Saturday. The decisions of the umpire (Mr. Munro) gave great dissatisfaction to some of the spectators, as he was considered to have favoured the visitors, and on his leaving the ground he was loudly hooted and hustled. This continued until the police-station was reached, where the umpire took refuge and sought protection. This was accorded, but the crowd followed him to the railway station, continuing to express their disapproval of his decisions.

A shock of earthquake was felt at Valparaiso on Saturday.

General Runyon, the United States Ambassador to Germany, died of heart disease on Monday.

There were 11,890 persons in penal servitude in Great Britain and Australia in 1870, and only 4,345 in 1895.

Alfred Hurdle, a Brighton railway constable, was shockingly mutilated by a passing engine on, the main line just outside the Brighton station.

Canon Jacob, late vicar of Portsea, was consecrated a Bishop, in the Cathedral at York, on Saturday, on his appointment to the See of Newcastle.

The fires in New York city last year averaged over 10 a day, and cost £623,086. It is doubtful if the loss from conflagration in 1895 in the whole of France much exceeds these figures.

The Lord Chamberlain intimates that the names of ladies already submitted for presentation at the Drawing Room announced for the end of February, which will not now take place, will be placed on the list for the Drawing Room to be held in March, unless otherwise desired.

The Queen has approved the appointment of the Hon. Francis Pakenham, her Majesty's Minister at Buenos Ayres, to be her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Sweden.

It is stated from Biarritz that Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone still enjoy excellent health, and that they have been joined by Mr. Herbert Gladstone from Syria.

Herr Friedmann, the absconding Berlin barrister, whose mysterious disappearance some two months ago excited considerable attention, has been arrested at an hotel in Orleans in company with a lady. His trial is sure to be a *cause célèbre* in the spring.

Early on Sunday morning the body of William Bretland, a native of Ashton-under-Lyne, and the sixth, and last, victim of the Dungannon Colliery accident, was discovered by a search party a considerable dissance from the entrance to the workings.

The Queen of Italy, during her recent sojourn at Monza, has been assiduously practising as a cyclist, under the guidance of a Milanese professor, and she is now able to cover long distances with safety. Many Italian ladies, not much given hitherto to athletic pastimes, are said to be following her Majesty's example.

The Rev. Neville G. M. Neville Laurence, rector of Bradstone, between Tavistock and Launceston, states that a decided shock of earthquake was felt there on Sunday morning between 6.15 and 6.50. It was, he says, especially noticeable at the Rectory "because of the explosion and loud rumbling which accompanied it."

In the week ending January 25th there were 163 bills of sale registered in England and Wales, a decrease of 26 as compared with the corresponding period last year. The receiving orders gazetted number 90, showing an decrease of 4, and the number of registered deeds of arrangement was 91, an increase of 16.—*Stubbs' Weekly Gazette.*

A curious instance of red-tapeism is reported from Northamptonshire. A parish council in the Thrapston district has been so economical in its administration that its whole expenditure for its first financial year amounted to the modest sum of 1s. The account, however, had to be officially audited, and to complete this process it was necessary to affix an audit stamp of 5s.

It is understood that the date of the Queen's arrival at Nice remains fixed for March 12. The road to the Hotel Cimiez through the grounds of the Villa Coleman has been completed, and forms an approach much superior to the old one. The municipality are widening the road north of the hotel leading to the Villa Liserb.

News was received ot Limerick late on Monday night that as Colonel O'Callaghan's agent, Mr. Browne, with a veterinary surgeon, were at Bodyke looking after some cattle supposed to have been maliciously poisoned, they were fired upon by a party of men. Mr. Browne returned the fire, and the men, who were under cover, ran away.

A desperate attempt to murder took place at Houghley, near Stowmarket, on Monday. A labourer named Walter Miles attacked a relative named Laura Miles, a young married woman, with a cutlass, and inflicted a number of severe wounds. Her cries attracted neighbours to her aid, and her assailant made off, but was afterwards apprehended.

It has transpired that Sir Edward Blount (who was appointed British Consul in Paris during the siege), is heading a movement for the formation of a committee for the purpose of making a suitable presentation to the Marquis of Dufferin, on the occasion of his seventieth birthday, which occurs on June 21 next. It is intended that the gift shall not only serve to mark his lordship's attainment of his seventieth year, but as a souvenir of his distinguished services to Great Britain as a diplomatist.

A shocking sewer accident occurred about noon on Monday at Muspratt's Chemical Works, Widnes. Two men named Luke Curley and Patrick Fay, were clearing out a sewer, when they were overcome by gas. Thomas Atherton went to their assistance, and he also was overpowered by gas, and when further help arrived and the three men were got out they were all dead. Efforts were made to restore animation, but without avail.

Mr. Hall Caine on Monday addressed a meeting of members of the Incorporated Society of Authors on the progress of the negotiations in connection with Canadian copyright and of the present position of the question. He said he thought the society might congratulate itself on some of the results achieved. It had come to terms of peace and goodwill with the interested classes in the Dominion, and, above all, it had held fast to the great principle that an author had an inalienable right to the property he created in books.

Alfred Templeton Hawkins, formerly managing director of the National Dwellings Society, and who, after a trial extending over four days in the Queen's Bench Division, had been found guilty of misappropriating between £3,000 and £4,000 belonging to that company, and also of omitting to make proper entries in its books, was on Monday sentenced by the Lord Chief Justice to five years' penal servitude on each charge, the terms to run concurrently.

An inquest was held at Wolverhampton on Monday, respecting the death of a lad named Horace Pritchard from the accidental discharge of a rifle at a shooting gallery. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death. They added a recommendation that the Home Office be requested to put all shooting galleries under proper official supervision, and that proprietors be licensed.

The Teignmouth Magistrate on Monday fined William Thomas, master of the schooner Eaglet, of Carnarvon, £20 for overloading his vessel with clay, so that it was sunk two and a-half inches below the loadline. The vessel went to sea and foundered after being a few days out, notwithstanding that 10 tons of her cargo were discharged at Plymouth.

Sir Henry Fowler, addressing a gathering of Wolverhampton Liberals on Monday night, after emphasising what he considered the two cardinal lessons of the last General Election, referred to the foreign complications with which Ministers had lately been confronted, declaring that in the face of common danger the Opposition was bound to support the Government of the Queen. Subject to that, they would uphold the principles which in their judgment were the surest safeguards of friendly relations with other Powers.

Mr. R. A. Whiteway, well-known equity at the Bar, and former Liberal candidate for South Hunts., and Mrs. Whiteway, were driving near St. Ives, Hunts., on Sunday, when the horse stumbled, and both were thrown violently out of the trap. Mrs. Whiteway alighted upon the horse's back, and had a near escape of being run over, as the animal immediately bolted on regaining its feet. Both Mr. and Mrs. Whiteway were taken to Dr. Grove's surgery at St. Ives, where it was found that Mr. Whiteway had sprained both his wrists, cut his face badly, and was severely shaken. Mrs. Whiteway, beyond a few bruises of no consequence, escaped uninjured.

The Magistrate at the Westminster Police-court, London, on Monday, once more drew attention to a blot in the Industrial Schools System, which prevented him inflicting adequate punishment on a prisoner who had heart disease. Because of this, it was explained, no industrial school or reformatory would accept him. The Magistrate decided to remand the prisoner to the workhouse, and to communicate with the Home Office.