

The Daily Leader

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H. T. STEVENS,
MANAGER

IMPORTANCE OF CAMPHOR.

One of our Exchanges tells us that Colonel North, of nitrate fame, is reported to be at the head of a syndicate which is now buying up all the camphor in the market in view of the inevitable decrease in the export of that product from Formosa, which constitutes the principal source of supply. Formosa is now in a state of insurrection, and much time must elapse before peace is restored in the island. Camphor being the most important ingredient in the manufacture of smokeless powder, now used by European armies, the corner is likely to affect the possibilities of peace and war for some time to come.

The elderly maiden lady whose camphor bottle is always as near to her, as the tobacco user's pipe or quid is to him, will be sorry to hear of a "corner" in her old time luxury, but it will be some consolation to know that, though her own days may be shortened by the monopoly, many other lives may be saved through the impossibility of making smokeless powder. People have become so fastidious about such matters that nowadays no one likes to be killed by smoking gunpowder, the consequence being that wars will be less attractive than formerly. It is an ill wind that blows nobody good; the old lady's loss is the fighting man's gain, and the general balance sheet of life continues unaffected. 'Twas ever thus. When whiskey was invented the man who raised the corn could have as much more, with the aid of the new discovery, as would suffice to supply it. The scales of nature always balance, when time affords the opportunity.

PASSING MEMBERS.

One of our exchanges has an article on the subject of free passes given by railways to members of parliament, a motion to prohibit which was defeated in the House of Commons by a vote of 46 for and 100 against. It would really seem to be injudicious for parliament to prohibit the granting or acceptance of such passes, as there can be no good reason for imposing restrictions on members, or on railways in connection with members, that do not apply to other people and to other corporations. But it is clearly wrong that members should travel free and the country pay for the passages as if they cost money. It is simply giving members a bonus which they are not entitled and which it is injudicious for them to receive in view of relations existing, or possible, between them and the companies that have them under obligation.

Yet it would seem that the best way to remedy the evil is not that suggested, but that the end might be reached by the government requiring members to be carried free or by paying traveling expenses to the railways instead of paying the members.

In some such way the principle might be maintained, and really it would seem very desirable that it should be. The *quid pro quo* idea that enters into all business considerations should have place here, and if members are drawing public money on false pretences, the thing ought to be stopped. Members of parliament ought to set a good example to their fellow citizens particularly in the matter of giving an equivalent for what they get, instead of getting something for nothing. If any particular method of securing this result is not acceptable or prudent, some other should be found, as it surely could be.

Lord Colin Campbell, fourth son of the Duke of Argyll, a captain in the Bombay Rifle Volunteer Corps, is dead. The cause of his death was pneumonia. Lord Colin Campbell was born in 1853. He was a Liberal in politics, and sat as a member of Parliament for Argyshire from 1878 to 1886. He was attached to Mr. Goschen's special mission to Constantinople in 1880. He married in 1881, Gertrude Elizabeth, daughter of the late Edmund Maghlin Blood, who obtained a judicial separation in 1884.

Prof. Huxley, who has been in ill health for some time past, suffered a relapse last week, and is now in a critical condition owing to a complication of diseases.

TERRIFIC BATTLES.

NOTES BY AN OFFICER WHO WAS IN A RECENT FIGHT OF IRONCLADS.

Capt. McGiffin in the New York Mail and Express says that a layman has on conception of the awful nature of battle in modern naval vessels. Even the cruisers have steel sides, and the air of the inclosed spaces is very confined. The din made by the impact of a heavy projectile against the metal sides is awful beyond description. I wore cotton in my ears, but in spite of that I am still deaf from that cause. The engineers in the Chen Yuen stuck to their work even when the temperature of the engine-rooms was above 200 Fahrenheit. The skin of our hands and arms was actually roasted off and every man was blinded for life, the sight being actually seared out.

Late in the action, after my hair had been burned off and my eyes so impaired by injected blood that I could only see out of one of them, and then only by lifting the lid with my fingers, I was desirous of seeing how the enemy was delivering his fire. As I grouped my way around the protected deck a 100-pound shell pierced the armor about eighteen inches in front of my hand. In a second my hand touching the steel was so burned that part of the skin was left upon the armor. That shows how intense is the heat engendered by the impact of a shot, and how rapidly the steel conducts that heat.

One shell struck an open gun-shield of the Chen Yuen early in the action, and glancing thence, passed through the open port. Seven gunners were killed and fifteen wounded by that shot. Early in the fight the Maxim gun in our foretop was silenced. The holes pierced by a shell could be seen from the deck. After the fight we found the officers and men about there all dead and frightfully mangled. That one shell had wrought the havoc.

The detonations of the heavy cannon and the impact of hostile projectiles produce concussions that actually rend the clothing off. The Chinese soldiers deserve all credit for their courage and obedience in that action. No duty was too difficult or dangerous. When the Chen Yuen's forecastle was ablaze from Jap shells I ordered several officers to cross the shell-swept place to fight the fire. They skirted that duty, but when I called upon the men to volunteer to follow me they did it promptly, and the ship was saved. It was while on this duty that a shell passing between my legs threw me aloft and let me down upon the deck with such violence that I became unconscious and was out of the fight. All of the officers, however, were not cowards. On my ship were several who had been educated in this country, and they were as brave and devoted as men could be. Others, however, were in the safest place they could find amidst ships.

QUEEN'S PRIVATE APARTMENTS.

The private apartments in any royal palace are naturally very much more interesting than others to which the public are generally admitted. The Queen's private rooms at Osborne are those containing the treasures she most values. Prince Albert was wont to say that of all their residences the home in the Isle of Wight was most truly "home, sweet home." Of late years her Majesty has taken a peculiar pleasure in embellishing Osborne in every possible way, and has been warmly encouraged in the gratification of her hobby by the Empress Frederick, the Marchioness of Lorne, and Princess Beatrice, who are all very clever at designing artistic furniture, wall decorations, etc. At Windsor I was once admitted into all the private sanctuaries, and found much to interest and amuse. What strikes one most, I think, at Windsor is the combined splendour and simplicity of the arrangements. Here was a gorgeous picture after Landseer or Angelis, there a wooden toy-horse or old dolly cast aside by one of the little Battenberg children in their play. In one of the private corridors I was shown a beautiful marble statue of the Queen and Prince Albert, the wife leaning on her husband's arm for support, her eyes fixed on his lifted hand pointing upwards. This statue is only unveiled Sundays, by special order of her Majesty. The library is the most notable room in all the castle. Here is the wonderful collection of Raphael's engravings, in which Prince Albert took such immense pride. Of all the books none has such intense interest as Spenser's "Faerie Queen." The volume was placed in my hands, and the librarian told me it has often lain in the hands of Queen Elizabeth. The Empress Frederick when at Windsor passes most of her time in the library. The Queen, who constantly paid visits to the room in former years, has of late, owing to her difficulty in moving about, rarely been able to do so. It is indeed quite a little journey to reach the library from her own suite of apartments.—Women at Home.

A WONDERFUL AUTOMATON.

In the year 1770 the most wonderful automaton that has ever been constructed was exhibited at Exeter Exchange, London. This automatic wonder represented a country gentleman's house, and was of such intricate and elaborate construction that no one disputed the claim of the exhibitor when he declared that he had worked 27 years in perfecting it. It showed the regulation English country house, with parks, gardens, cascades, temples, bridges, etc., besides over 100 appropriately clad human beings in the gardens, on the bridges, chopping wood and at various building operations. In the park were several deer moving naturally about, and four horses and a coach following the meandering road. Besides the above the figures of boys were seen fishing from the bridges, while a boatload of ladies and gentlemen regularly rowed across an enlargement in the brook, much to the consternation of the natural looking figures of geese and ducks which were paddling about in the water. The whole of these animate and inanimate figures were inclosed in a space of 4½ feet square.—St. Louis Republic.

Whatever may be the cause of blanching, the hair may be restored to its original color by the use of that potent remedy Hall's Vegetable Sicilian Hair Renewer.

GOOD ROADS.

Periodically the cry goes forth that there should be better roads throughout the country. Everyone realizes that the demand rests on a solid foundation, and that the prosperity of the farming population especially is materially interfered with by neglect to take proper care of the highways. Spring thaws and autumn rains, says an exchange, render them measurably impassable. Even in midsummer they are in bad condition, and the wear and tear on the farmer's wagon unites with the damage done its contents to cut quite a perceptible shaving off his market profits. Driving is sometimes more of a torture than a pleasure, and the wails of the bicyclist over the roughness of the roads he must travel are now loud in the land. But there seems to be no labor to spare to improve these articles of rural trade. The people all have something to do which they regard as more profitable, and the municipalities have no tax money at their disposal at all adequate to undertake the gigantic task. Yet all over the continent a cry goes up for good roads, and there are some who say that the prosperity of the farmers depends more upon getting good roads than upon any other prosoosed panacea for their ills. We have town improvement societies and agitators for this, that and the other, in the way of improvement. Isn't there some one in Charlotte with energy and brains enough to introduce and carry into effect a good movement.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

During the last twenty years it is claimed that the consumption of alcoholic liquor in England has fallen off one-half, while it has doubled in France.

The Scotch shipbuilders during May launched thirty-six vessels, aggregating 53,364 tons, being the highest tonnage for May since 1879. This high total was due to the inclusion of the British cruiser *Terrible*, of 14,220 tons.

Lady Henry Somerset has set out to abolish the bloomin' British barmaid by legislative enactment. The chief opposition is said to come from the barmaids themselves, who number some 50,000 in the United Kingdom, and who object to being deprived of their means of livelihood.

Lord Rosebery will this year exhibit no fewer than twenty-four head of sheep at the fat stock shows at Birmingham and Smithfield. His Lordship will thus be probably the largest exhibitor. His exhibits will include many noted prize-winners of last year's Scottish shows.

Out of 54,946 male criminals confined in English prisons last year 20,172 had been only once committed, while 3,393 had been in prison ten times and over. The number of males committed doubled that of females, but in the cases of supposed total depravity, shown by over ten commitments, the females outnumbered the males by about 30 per cent.

At Cutchogue, L. I., on Wednesday last according to a late despatch George Grathwohl had a fine fat pig in front of his place ready for slaughter when a thunder storm came up and the lightning killed and skinned the porker. All the butcher had to do was to cut the animal up for sale. Before the lightning struck the pig it hit a fence and made kindling wood of it. It rushed along the fence a distance of eight rods, then it leaped to the ground and made straight for piggy ploughed up the ground and scattered the turf about the place. A furrow several inches deep was made in the ground.

Fortify yourself for the diseases peculiar to warm weather, by taking Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

A few days ago, C. H. Fisk, the Old Orchard, Maine, hotel proprietor, got a needle in his foot, and was unable to extract it, although he tried many ways to do so. Finally, knowing the affinity of steel for a magnet, he went to the electric light station, and placed his foot near a dynamo and out came the needle.

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"If you dumped a cartload of gold at my feet it would not bring such gladness into my life as your method has done."

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