

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The scheme to push a railroad through the whole length of Africa, which, a decade ago, would have been deemed visionary and impracticable, is now in process of realization.

In the gap yet to be filled, the road will run along the Central African plateau, a comparatively level country, easy to build in, save the hilly region south of Lake Tanganyika, and between the Victoria Nyanza and Lake Albert Edward.

Already he has enlisted the German Emperor in the scheme, an agreement having been reached between them for the possession of the Congo basin.

She had just the day before received the proofs of ten-month-old Willie in six different poses, and the photographer shuddered as he saw her once more enter his parlors.

"I'm sorry," she said, without any obvious grief, "but none of these negatives will do."

"Not one of the six?" he inquired, hesitantly. "No," she said, "I'm afraid not. You see, I like this one very well, though, of course, it doesn't do baby justice, but his Aunt Ellen says it's an absolute caricature of the dear little fellow."

"His grandmother chose that one, but as Cousin Fanny said, there's a very queer look in the child's eyes in it—very queer! However, she likes that one where he's almost resting, that's better."

"The elephant beetle of Venezuela is the biggest of its species. An average specimen of this insect, when full grown, weighs half a pound."

BLACK JACK.

"I don't see why it isn't all right," she protested. "You haven't received any orders to stop this dance, so you are doing your duty."

"You mean there may be trouble?" he asked in an undertone. "Yes," he said shortly. "That is, of course it's very unlikely, but one never knows what the Peigans are up to in these parts."

"The reason that Mrs. Eviston could not obtain a view of Jack was a very simple one. The young lady was at the farthest end of the pasture, behind a big cottonwood, with a pair of cats in one hand and a halter grasped firmly in the other."

"In the middle of the clear ground a circle of lodge poles, some of poles twenty feet tall, set near together and interlaced with boughs of cottonwood and birch, and there, behind them, lay the leather thong, the roof, which slanted upward, was formed in much the same way, the cross-poles, which were set at right angles to the main poles, were fastened to the tall central lodge-pole."

"The lodge was a circular space through which the sun beat fiercely. Doyle halted the horses on the edge of the clearing in front of the lodge and waited for orders. Captain Eviston swung himself down from the trap and looked narrowly at the group of Indians about him as he waited for the others to come up. Pembroke was the first."

"I say, we are in great luck. Plenty of time. It doesn't seem to have commenced yet," he muttered. "All right—so far," he added under his breath. "Miss Page jumped lightly down from her seat in the trap and came over to him."

"Isn't this perfect?" she exclaimed, breathing a sigh of relief. "Think of missing this! How awfully picturesque they are in their paint and feathers! I wish I had brought my camera!"

"Perhaps it's just as well you didn't," remarked Captain Eviston, coolly. "There was a man torn to pieces down near Medicine Hat last year for photographing some Indians who had not happened to want to be photographed. It's all very well if they come and ask you to do it, but I wouldn't photograph them en masse and when they are brought up to a dance, unless I was especially requested to do so."

RUSSIA'S RELIGIOUS TROUBLES.

A movement is going on in Russia that is destined to furnish some explanation of the recent events in the empire, and of the other measures against dissenting bodies in the empire.

"To leave the Church in the hands of the ecclesiastical administration is impossible, for this reason alone, if for no other, that within the Church itself, owing to the inactivity and almost utter impurity of the clergy, who are the only ones who are allowed to the abuses of the ecclesiastical constitution, such as the Stundists the schismatics, the Baptists and others which never existed before, have sprung up and covered the whole of holy Russia—while the most religious people, finding no satisfaction for their religious and moral life in the Church, have turned to the study of the Bible, and are flocking to the pastors of the Old Beliefs, in whose temples the service is devout and according to the ancient traditions of the Church."

"The writer, however, does not stand alone in protesting against the way in which the Russian church is governed, and even the late Metropolitan of Petersburg, Palladius, at the time presiding over the Holy Synod, complained of the Russian Church having now lost all political significance and practically no more existing at all."

"The reforms suggested by M. Dournovo are, finally, the ecclesiastical authority, is described as arrogant to itself infallibility, and 'the truth about it can only be spoken of in a large handle of thorns, some of which he presented to distinguish contemporaries, while the others he bequeathed to his successors. M. du Mely thinks that there is much more to be learned on this subject, and he proposes to continue his investigations until he arrives at the exact truth."

"The boldness of M. Dournovo's utterances indicates a widespread discontent with the existing administration of the Church in Russia. When the heretoric loyal and conservative orthodox Russian displays the same discontent with the government of the nation, it is not surprising that the Emperor Alexander II, and increase the power of the Bishop over them. At the same time he would give the congregations a large measure of self-government, and that they should be elected by the parishioners, the Bishop having the right of veto."

"Of the five hundred Indians fully armed and equipped, some of whom the rest massing themselves at the entrance and around the sides, wherever they could see. In the center of the lodge, about the pole, stood a young Indian, who was a member of the circle, around which the chiefs and medicine-men ranged themselves. Back of these were massed the young Indians and their women."

"The soldiers of the Kaiser do not pass their time merely in going through the manual or marching and counter-marching. Gymnasium practice is one of the requirements of the service, as well as special military practice in scaling walls, &c. To test the soldier's agility and strength a board wall sixteen feet high and half built, with a platform on top of it. How can a man six feet tall climb a wall without a single projection to catch hold of? Alone it would be impossible, but with his comrades to assist it becomes possible, though by no means easy. Two of the soldiers stoop down and place their clasped hands under the feet of one of their comrades, who stands erect. Then, as he places his hands on the wall to steady himself, the stooping soldiers straighten up, raising him as far as they can."

"The soldier is not yet able to reach the top of the wall and pull himself up. A comrade who is on top stretches himself out on the roof, lying down at full length, and extends his hands to the soldier below. Then by main strength and considerable scrambling the man is pulled up until he can catch hold of the top and help himself up. The soldiers stand by with bayonets fixed to their rifles, ready to guard against any attempt to pull down that no one can be pierced by a prod, and hurry the practising privates. Speed is a necessary part of the evolution, for an enemy is not going to stand idly by while the Germans climb their ramparts, and the man who scrambles up fastest is proclaimed victor. For an enemy is not going to matter, with heavy knapsack on your back and clothed in marching garb, to get up a straight wall like this."

CHRIST'S CROWN OF THORNS.

Recent investigations by a distinguished French Scientist Throw Much Light on It.

Some interesting facts in regard to the crown of thorns which Christ wore during His crucifixion have just been brought to light by M. du Mely, a distinguished French scientist. This subject has occupied his attention for a considerable time and at the last meeting of the Academy of Inscriptions, at Paris, he related the facts which he had ascertained in regard to it. His statements were regarded by the present as entirely reliable, and mainly because he is known to be one of the greatest living authorities on all matters connected with the crucifixion."

"At the beginning of the present century the general opinion among churchmen was that, out of all the thorns which had once formed part of the crown, there were only twenty-seven then in existence. M. du Mely, however, now says that he can clearly trace the history of five hundred and sixty thorns, and that the most likely places in which to find them now would be the cities of Jerusalem, Paris and Constantinople."

"In 1239 large pieces of the crown of thorns were sent to France, and in 1247 they became the property of St. Louis, who built a costly shrine, in which they were securely guarded. At that time the number of thorns in the shrine was seventy-two, but this number must have been increased within a few years, for we are assured that Louis and his immediate successors presented sixty thorns to various princes, churches and cloisters throughout Europe, and yet that, after this distribution had been made, twenty-three thorns remained as the property of the French King. So they are. With one of these latter, by the way, a tragic incident is connected. When Mary Queen of Scots left France for England, she carried with her a choice treasure, and throughout her eventful career she never failed to wear it, and after she was executed her attendants found it close to her heart. In the Church of Notre Dame, at Paris, there is no relic more cherished than what is known as the crown of Christ, and M. du Mely suggests that in addition to this crown, which has been in Paris for many centuries, St. Louis in some way acquired a large handle of thorns, some of which he presented to distinguish contemporaries, while the others he bequeathed to his successors. M. du Mely thinks that there is much more to be learned on this subject, and he proposes to continue his investigations until he arrives at the exact truth."

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WOES OF MILLIONAIRES.

An English millionaire has just been adjudged incapable of looking after his property. He imagines himself the Prince of Wales.

Some years ago a rich merchant took the idea that he was penniless. His sons, to stop his worrying, assured him that they had rescued the business and was to continue it. They offered him a clerkship at a small salary in his own office. He took it and kept at work nearly twenty years. When he died he left nearly \$15,000,000. Two English millionaires were noted for their parsimony. One picked up and smoked cigar ends. The other, after fine receptions in his house, would go around carefully collecting cigar ends to be used again. Neither of these men were insane. Both were shrewd in business."

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