

## TWENTY YEARS AGO

From the Sentinel  
May 22nd, 1897

Rev. J. B. Gough, Hartland, will occupy the Methodist pulpit Sunday 23rd inst.

The Woodstock Field Battery will probably go into camp in the Doherty field about the 28th inst.

The following clergymen, in town, attending the church of England S. S. Conference: Revs. H. E. Dibblee, Wythecombe, Dean Partridge, Archdeacon Brigstocke, Dicker Cannon Roberts, W. O. Raymond, Ernest Simonson, O. S. Newnam.

The season is much later than usual, and until this week, little seeding has been done. The farmers now, however, are rushing in their seed, and in consequence there are not many visitors from the country to the town causing almost a stagnation in business. The winter was severe on the grass roots, and the hay crop will be exceedingly light.

### BUILDING A BOOK.

Where the Ending Was Written Before the Beginning.

There has been more than one in the history of literature of a being written upside down—that is, beginning its beginning or ending becoming its end.

Probably the most outstanding instance of the topsy-turvydom in the history of literature is "The King," Tennyson's great epic.

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## ONE VERY FAMOUS LEAK

THE GREATEST "SCOOP" IN THE HISTORY OF NEWSPAPERS.

How de Blowitz Secured the Outline of the Treaty of Berlin in 1878. When the Noted Correspondent of the London Times Outwitted Count von Bismarck and Other Diplomats.

"LEAKS" are an old story. A secret is as good as the people who keep it, and when one is spread around among twenty or thirty secretaries, clerks, underclerks, and large-ward janitors who have lived most of their lives in the atmosphere of a national capital—any national capital—it is pretty sure to prove a bad leak. Generally, too, a "leak" gets in its biggest effect on the stock market.

It was so in 1873 when somebody whispered in the ears of a few of the already pretty wise ones that Jay Cooke & Co. could not recover on its Northern Pacific bonds, and Tom Lawson's leak was a thousand times better. But there was one historic leak at least, which, although not imparting any such a blow to the stock market, nevertheless, as far as spectacular qualities are concerned, leads all the rest.

In 1878 Henri Georges Stephan Adolphe de Blowitz, the greatest newspaper correspondent of his time, attended the congress of Berlin as the representative of the London Times. Diplomatic representatives of every power in Europe sat at its council board. Europe was making over its map at the end of the Russo-Turkish war. It was the time when a free Serbia, a free Roumania and Bulgaria and Montenegro were recognized by the powers. But the thing which the world waited to know was "what were they going to recognize?"

"At Paris the fishes talk. At Berlin the parrots are dumb," M. de Blowitz had thus defined his diminutive hopes of "landing" anything in an enigmatical statement, before leaving the French capital. But he did land something. Through a "leak" M. de Blowitz "scooped" the world.

In the "Memoirs of M. de Blowitz" he tells how it was accomplished. The congress convened on June 13. Luck had favored him. Before he left Paris a young man of noble family slightly acquainted with him had called at his apartments. "I am ruined," he had told the correspondent in effect. "My brother's debts have wrecked my fortune. I must get money to make a fresh start in the colonies."

The great journalist schemed for a few hours. "All right," he answered him at length. "Take this letter of introduction and get employment at the congress." The letter was from a third party to the private secretary of one of the most distinguished European diplomats.

More than half of the articles in the treaty had come in by the hat route, but the remainder was yet to get. Craft won the day this time. Looking downcast from his worrying, de Blowitz met one day in a hotel corridor a diplomatic friend with whom he was in confidential relations. The friend asked him what was the matter.

To de Blowitz came a sudden inspiration. "I have got to forestall the publication of this treaty," he told him in substance—that is, get it into his newspaper before the terms were officially announced. "I have just had

an assurance that Prince Bismarck is highly satisfied with what I wrote in our interview. I am going to ask him to regard me by communicating the treaty to me."

The friend hesitated a minute—then "bit." Don't ask him until you have seen me again," he advised. "Meet me at such and such a place to-morrow."

"Next day," writes de Blowitz, "he came up to me in the street and hurriedly said to me, 'Come for the treaty the day before the end of the Congress and I promise you that you shall have it.'"

Sure of his treaty, de Blowitz was now confronted with the problem of writing it. Count von Bismarck had not reached its present degree of perfection, but there was no chance of getting such a message through a German operator. Paris was too far. The treaty would be in his hands Friday, July 12th. He could not reach Paris in time to catch his paper in London on Saturday, and there were no Sunday editions in the London of 1878. By Monday morning the treaty would have been officially announced by Bismarck. The chance for a scoop would be over.

De Blowitz remembered Brussels. Through the Belgian minister at Berlin he arranged for permission to get a wire into London, ostensibly to "test the speed of the service."

Then he went ahead with his petition to Bismarck as if nothing else had happened. He knew almost for a certainty that Bismarck would turn him down. He knew that this would give him his chance to leave Berlin, apparently in a rage against German secretiveness, but with the treaty stowed away in his clothing.

The plan worked perfectly. De Blowitz meanwhile called around at his friend's house, and got the treaty. Another friend, to fill things out, provided him with the preamble.

A Short History of Fans

THE use of fans has come down to us from remote ages. In the British Museum there is a bar relief which represents Sennacherib surrounded by a group of women attendants, all of whom are carrying feather fans. Similar examples of this ancient use of fans are seen in Egyptian sculptures at Thebes, in the ruins of Persepolis and in other places. Perhaps the oldest fan in existence to-day is in a museum near Cairo; it is a wooden fan-handle, showing holes in which feathers were inserted, and it is known to date from the Seventeenth Century B. C.

In the Middle Ages fans were used in certain church ceremonies, according to the new Encyclopedia Britannica. These fans were made of silver or silver gilt, and were sometimes round in shape with little bells attached. Mention is made of such fans in the cathedral records of St. Paul's, London, Salisbury, and in many church records also. They are no longer used for these purposes in the western world, but are still retained in some Oriental religious ceremonies.

Japan and China play a large part in the history and development of fans, and many of the most beautiful and original designs were worked out by the skillful artists of those countries. Folding-fans originated in Japan, but were soon imported to China. The shape in which these earliest folding-fans were made is illustrated by the sketch of a circular piece of paper pasted on a radiating frame-work of bamboo. Some of them were decorated in many colors, others were of plain white paper. The latter were made for the carrying of the compulsory Chinese custom of requesting a friend or a distinguished guest at any great occasion to write appropriate remarks on one's fan. This custom still prevails in China.

In these two oriental countries, men and women of all classes and professions carry fans—even workmen using them with one hand while working with the other; and the different designs and styles, of course, are numerous. The loveliest Chinese fans are made of very thin plates of ivory, elaborately carved, often on both sides. The plates are fastened together with a ribbon. Sometimes Japanese fans have the outer guards of the sticks made of extremely thin, light beaten iron, inlaid with gold or other metals.

Coming down to more modern times and countries, we find that Portuguese ladies of the Fourteenth Century carried fans as well as those of France and England. In France, fans were brought into very general use by Catherine de Medici, who brought with her from Italy the more elaborate tastes of that southern country.

The ladies at the court of Henry VIII. of England were accustomed to hold fans in their hands, as we may see in Holbein's portraits of noble ladies. Queen Elizabeth was painted at least once with a round feather fan in her hand, and an inventory of her private possessions, taken in 1606, informs us that she owned no less than 27 fans.

In the Seventeenth Century, Paris became the European centre for the manufacture of fans. Here were made the sticks, of wood or of ivory, and the carefully prepared vellum which had been found much stronger and better to use than paper. Often the decorations were put on to the vellum in Paris, but sometimes un-painted fans were sent to Spain to be decorated by Spanish artists. Dutch fans of ivory were imported into Paris and there decorated by painters by a special process of colorless lac varnish. Queen Victoria owned several fans of this kind which were exhibited at Kensington in 1870.

Under the Stuarts, the manufacture of fans became well established in England, and Charles II. was petitioned by the fan-makers not to import fans from India. In response to their request, a duty was levied on Indian fans; but the fashion of importing fans from India and China spread, and in France, the trade in them with those countries surpassed that with Italy.

The over-ornamentation and magnificence of the Eighteenth Century made itself seen even in such small

things as fans, which grew more and more elaborate. The sticks were made now of mother-of-pearl, ivory, and were carved with remarkable skill in France, England and other countries. Fanetta silk at the moment were used to cover the sticks and occasionally even the finest point lace. Sometimes little circles of glass were inserted into the sticks to be looked through. The painting on the fans was done by such famous painters of the day as Boucher, Watteau, and Lancret, and often it represented contemporary political scenes and personages. A little later, fans were often decorated with hand-colored prints. Of course, the great expense and elaborate decoration expended on fans decreased rapidly after the French Revolution, but there are today in Paris well-known fan-makers who carry on a large business, and artists of note still sometimes design and paint the mounts. The best modern designs are figures.

In England, the manufacture of fans was greatly stimulated by the exhibition at the South Kensington Museum in 1870, to which reference has already been made. This museum contains a large collection of Eighteenth Century fans, French, English, German, Italian, and Spanish in number. Modern collections of fans date from the time of the French Revolution, when fine ladies gave their away as souvenirs or were forced to sell them.

READING HISTORY.

The One Way to Acquire a Real Knowledge of the World.

Henry James once told me that the only reading of which he never tired was history. "The least scientific footnote of history," he said, "strikes more than the most thrilling and passionate fiction. Nothing that has happened to the world finds me indifferent."

I used to think that ignorance of history meant only a lack of cultivation and a loss of pleasure. Now I am sure that such ignorance impairs our judgment by depriving us of standards, of the power to contrast and the right to estimate. We can know nothing of any nation unless we know its history, and we can know nothing of the history of any nation unless we know something of the history of all nations.

The book of the world is full of knowledge we need to acquire, of lessons we need to learn, of wisdom we need to assimilate. Consider only this brief sentence of Polybius, quoted by Plutarch, "In Carthage no one is blamed however he may have gained his wealth." A pleasant place, no doubt for business enterprise, a place where young men were taught how to get on and extravagance kept pace with shrewd finance; a self-satisfied, self-confident, money getting, money loving, money honoring success and huzzing his fancied security, while in far-off Rome Cato pronounced its doom. Agnes Repplier in Atlantic Monthly.

Australians on Skates.

The cold weather in England and the consequent revival of skating has proved a great novelty to the soldiers from Australia and New Zealand, many of whom tried to skate on the frozen Thames.

There were some Canadians who were experts in skating, and at Regent's Park one wounded man from Montreal gave a good exhibition of figure-skating. Afterwards he tried to teach a Queensland. Both were in full hospital kit, and their "blues" and scarlet ties did not detract from the note of color. At last the Queenslanders retired baffled, contented to watch the experts, among whom was Princess Patricia of Connaught.

Opened Dry Hotel.

In recognition of the overseas Dominion prohibition policy the opening ceremony of the British Empire non-alcoholic public house, Poplar, was performed by Premier Massey, of New Zealand and Colonel Richard Reid, Agent-General of Ontario lately. The speaker had something to say on the subject of empire schemes after the war. Premier Massey considered nothing more important for the welfare of the Empire than some well considered scheme evolved by Imperial and Dominion Governments. Colonel Reid corrected the fallacy that the Dominions were solely interested in agriculture. He told the audience that Canada meant to become a serious rival of Great Britain in the industrial markets of the world.

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Fussy Aunt Sally.

She is One of Those Who Always Find a Task Undone.

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We were almost asleep when she brought in another quilt. She said it might turn cold during the night and that we could pull it up if we needed it. She went back to her room and stood perfectly still for a few seconds. Evidently she was trying to think of something else to do before going to bed, and she thought of it. She decided she had best sprinkle down her clothes so they would iron better next day. When this was finished she folded the rough dried pieces and put them away.

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TASTEFUL  
SATISFYING  
KING COLE  
TEA  
You'll Like the Flavor

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