

miliar and friendly terms with their Mohammedan neighbors at the time of the insurrection in 1895. Even the Kurds, the most intractable and savage of the Turkish population, had been cordial in their relations. It was the Armenian revolutionists who brought down the whole cataclysm of evils on the heads of their brethren. The Armenian language, creed and schools were always free in Turkey. No social restrictions of any kind had been imposed on them. Their lives and property had been as secure as those of any Turkish subjects. They enjoyed such a degree of liberty and social freedom as no alien race ever enjoyed in Russia. The rebellion instigated among the Armenians by the emissaries who came over the Russian frontier was suppressed, according to Mr. Whitman, with as little severity as possible, and the outrages on the part of a few bands of fanatical Kurds were outside of government responsibility. Indeed the perpetrators of the outrages were severely punished by the pasha commanding the disturbed district, and the victims were cordially assisted by the resident Mohammedans with money and protection.

Mr. Whitman's investigation of the outrages, made among Christians and Mohammedans of every class, Turkish officials, Christian missionaries and Armenians themselves of the better class, convinced him that the stories of Armenian atrocity were so vastly exaggerated as to be little better than an inverted pyramid of lies. The convictions formed by Mr. Whitman seem to be that the Turks in dealing with the last attempts at Armenian revolution did so with as little cruelty and barbarism as could be used, and that the monstrous deeds with which Europe and America rang, narrated from Armenian sources, had but little true basis except so far as they were perpetrated by lawless ruffians.

Navy--Personnel Bill.

A bill of great importance to the navy, reported by Congressman Foss of Illinois and already referred to the committee of the whole, will be taken up probably by the next session of congress for final disposition. This proposes to reorganize the whole personnel of the navy by amalgamating the line and staff in rank and duty. The profound interest felt in everything which can increase the efficiency of this branch of military service justifies some comment on the topic. Since the civil war, when steam became the prime ship motor, there has been a tendency of the line or fighting and navigating officers to regard the engineer force as their inferiors. When steam enginery became a necessity of ships, it was necessary to supply its officers from civil life, and the professional naval man naturally looked down on them. The feeling even remained after engineering became a part of the regular Annapolis

course and engineers were graduates of the academy, for once an engineer always an engineer. The cleavage between the two kinds of officers worked detrimentally in many ways. The new bill amalgamates them and regards the engineer detail as one at any time likely to be changed for deck duty or vice versa. In other words, the new naval officer must be fit to take his turn at any time in the engine room, if necessary. The less accomplished officers not equipped for such heavy all round work will be gradually weeded out by voluntary or enforced retirement. This change of course will greatly add to the importance of studies in steam and electric engineering at the academy and will graduate a body of a far more masterly in their profession. It is getting to be a recognized fact on a warship that no man is fully ripe for command till he knows his machinery as well as his guns.

There are other provisions in the bill for the correction of minor evils which have gradually grown up, but the elimination of the friction in feeling and duty between staff and line is the principal aim. The bill was mainly drawn up by a body of naval experts, including line and staff officers, and has been fully indorsed by the naval board. It is believed that it will be of the greatest effect in improving the personnel of our naval officers, already a noble body of men with manifold gifts. The crew which fights the warship is the great factor of victory and the officers are the brains of that crew.

The English Broom.

One of the botanical oddities of Massachusetts is the existence of the English broom, which grows in only two places—in Sterling, this county, and in Salem. It is not a native plant, and how it got across the water is a mystery. Perhaps some homesick colonist caused it to be sent to him, that the hills about his new home might have the familiar appearance of the old country. It is a beautiful golden yellow in color and grows in a compact, spirelike plant, with blossoms close together. So thick are the stalks that the pastures are like sheets of gold, and at first sight seem to be buttercups in masses. Arba Pierce brought some of it into the city and proposes to make a display of it at the exhibition of the horticultural society.

Every one has heard of the broom. English and Scotch literature is full of it. It was the flower of the royal house of Plantagenet. In fact, the name Plantagenet is the French for broom plant a genet. Their ancestor, the Count d'Anjou, wore a string of broom as a badge, therefore their name. The name broom is given it because of its usefulness for the purpose.—Worcester (Mass.) Gazette.

A Bismarck Duel.

A duel in which Bismarck was once engaged had a very amusing origin. It occurred when he was chief secretary of the Prussian legation at Frankfort. He went much into society, and one

Christmas attended a big ball. During the height of the festivities Bismarck's attention was directed to an exceedingly pompous individual who strutted about the room. This was a M. de Clancy, a noted French duelist. Later on this important individual took part in a dance, but having omitted to leave his hat at the proper place had perforce to hold it out almost at arm's length while he danced. The spectacle tickled Bismarck immensely, and as the Frenchman came sailing majestically along Bismarck stepped forward and dropped a coin into the hat. A duel was one of the next day's events. Though it was with pistols Bismarck escaped unhurt, while his adversary was wounded.

The English foreign office recently complained of the promptness with which the London Times became acquainted with the most secret negotiations pending in the tsung-li-yamen in which Great Britain was interested. Statesmen forget that newspaper proprietors are as able to bribe as they themselves. It has long been known that every foreign minister in Peking has one of the confidential officials of the great Chinese bureau of state in constant pay. Nothing goes on in the tsung-li-yamen without its being promptly known to the "foreign devils" at the legations. The humor of the thing is that the high Chinese authorities know and wink at it. It is suspected that more than one of them, too, is as venal as the minor officials in this way. The London Times has done exactly what the ambassadors are doing every day. As for the publication of such secrets to gratify the public longing for prompt news, which has been stigmatized by the outraged gentlemen of Downing street as immoral and unpatriotic, that is a question of ethics, where the relative point of view alone makes the difference between tweedledum and tweedledee.

A writer in The United Service Magazine states that the United States has spent more than \$10,000,000,000 in war during the national existence. This generous statistician has probably reckoned it at compound interest, as representing what might have been saved. But then the country would not have existed at all.

It is said that Dreyfus is to be brought back to France to await the further issue of events. Should he ever get out of prison to make a square meal again he should at once devour, among other delicacies, a "paty du Clam."

A young man is rich in all the future which he dreams. The old man is poor in all the past which he regrets. There are many millionaires who would exchange some of their millions for a cup of forgetfulness.

The most dangerous vices are virtues, which have put themselves into perverse and inharmonious relation to life.