

"dominating the seas, disposing of enormous resources and weighing upon the entire world with a force absolutely preponderating if this group confronts only divided nations." To meet this colossal threat he advocates "the organization of a European federation as one of the tasks imposed by a near future."

M. Thiery, the other essayist, does not indulge in such melancholy anticipation, but he draws a comparison between the resources of the United States and those of rival peoples, their relative burdens and drawbacks, with a free admission of the enormous advantage of this transatlantic power in the future race for precedence. He analyzes the cost of European armaments and shows their effects on the burden of taxation and the resources of industry. His conclusion is that military nations must suffer most seriously in competing with the industrial nations of Anglo-Saxondom. His appeal echoes that of the czar and urges the release of national strength from its "Old Man of the Sea" in the shape of national militarism.

An interesting paper was read by Professor Lunstrom of Sweden before the British association at its recent meeting describing experiments made on growing plants through the action of electricity. The trials were continued for more than a month and extended over 161 hours in midsummer. The current was applied for four hours in the morning and four in the afternoon. On a general average there was found to be an increase of their seeds during this period of experiment of 40 per cent and in the roots of from 25 to 75 per cent, the latter increase being in beans, strawberries and raspberries. The time of ripening was shortened fully one-third. The experiments satisfied the author of some things in the philosophy of natural operations. Unless water was given the plants at the same time with the electrical current on hot, sunshiny days the plants were injured. Electrical storms in the state of nature were conceived to be important to vegetation. Professor Lunstrom believed that either the gases in the air were transformed to ozone or nitrous oxides, which, being heavy, fell upon the plants and helped the activity of their vegetation or that the electricity induced the juices of the plants to circulate more rapidly through the capillary tubes. It was claimed that the method was ready to be carried into practical operation. From experiments made in the United States some years ago it was found that artificially applied electricity was of special value in growing fruit, vegetables and flowers under glass, but less reliable in the field.

The Kansas City papers have been having their fun over one of the attractions of their carnival, "her illustrious highness Princess Mban-Na-Ulivan.

oldest daughter of Tanno Moafu, king of the Fiji islands, who has already started from her father's capital, Savu-Savu, situated on the island of Moula Mairari, for San Francisco, and will arrive there on Sept. 26. Her highness brings with her the court costume she will wear when in Kansas City, and before leaving her island home it had been carefully packed in a cigar box and sealed with the royal seal." It seems that the princess at the last moment struck for three copper nose rings and a necklace of human teeth, while the royal father insisted on 25 pounds of scrap iron and a bottle of Medford rum.

The German attache who accompanied General Kitchener's expedition and was present at Omdurman with its frightful carnage in his report accuses the English general of bad strategy and tactics. So, too, General Mack, the Austrian soldier beaten at Marengo, accused Napoleon of poor generalship on that occasion. Both Napoleon and Kitchener, however, hit the bullseye of success. Pedants are amusing persons.

As between the alleged bones and the ship, the country is quite well satisfied to retain the Cristobal Colon, which Spain consented unwillingly to leave in the West Indies.

The late Hooley scandal in the English peerage was dropped quite summarily as far as the law courts are concerned, but the papers have produced many pithy comments on the whole related question. It seems that a certain class of the peerage, of the type involved in Mr. Hooley's transactions, whose members are known as "guinea pig" peers, has long been in evidence. The Critic's list of those entitled to enter this order is quite formidable, and of course does not include a large number of the peerage who are honorably associated with companies of sterling merit. But the black sheep and the black list number 69 peers and 190 companies, an astonishing showing until one reflects that London is the greatest center of stock company promotion in the world. The companies have exploited a capital of £64,019,849, of which more than £54,000,000 belong to companies which have never paid a penny of dividend in cash or scrip. The Critic, coming down to details, cites among other examples one prize "guinea pig," the Earl of Donoughmore, who has been in 14 companies as promoter and director. The Critic goes on to say: "If we accept £250 per annum as the average amount of yearly fees received by the directors of a company which appeals to the public for capital—the fees vary from £100 to £500—we find that the Earl of Donoughmore took in fees during the years he was a director a larger sum than the shareholders of all the 14 companies received in interest for the use of nearly £3,000.

000." How unfortunate for many an impecunious peer that the Hooley failure called such attention to this matter! It must have reduced many a "coronetted" income, at least for the time being.

Our consuls and consular agents in France report a great field there for an increase of American business if American merchants and manufacturers would go about it the right way, but a singular stupidity is attributed to most of them. Instead of sending their circulars, price lists, schedules and other descriptive matter printed in the French language, they send these important mediums of business in English, which not one French merchant in a score understands. The result is that this business apparatus finds its way to the wastebasket. The English speaking person everywhere appears to have the idea that it is the inherent duty of every one else to know English and that ignorance of it shows perversity of mind. Another drawback is that our merchants do not think to put prices, weights, measures, etc., into their equivalent French forms. On such little things often great results depend. Indeed all successful business is mainly accomplished in the administration of detail.

Jewelry experts declare that the amount of paste jewelry worn by people of wealth is enormous. People of moderate means are far more apt to wear genuine stones, when they use such ornaments at all. A rich woman only can dare to disport a tiara of flashing gems without being set down as an impostor. No one thinks of suspecting a millionaire's wife or daughter. The reason is not far to seek. Both in England and America very valuable jewels are kept in bankers' or safety deposit strong boxes and are only occasionally withdrawn. It is too much trouble and involves too much danger to wear these very often. So for ordinary exigencies paste stones are worn. Probably not one person in a hundred is capable of distinguishing between the artificial and the real product. It is alleged that on a brilliant opera night in New York or London not less than nine-tenths part of the most showy exhibitions of jeweled ornaments is sham. It is often the case in England that a bride marrying into a great family wears the family jewels once or twice. Then the superb stones go back to the gloom of a banker's safe, to be hidden there again for years. The manufacture of paste stones involves great skill and care, and though a minor industry yet represents a large value in its total. The principal seat of sham jewel making in the United States is Providence. All this goes to show what an enormous element of snobbery, fraud and humbug enters into the higher walks of fashionable life, for it is in this quarter that the sham products find their most active custom.