

CURRENT TOPICS

A SECRET clause in the testaments of Baron Alfonse Rothschild and the Jenna Rothschild was recently made public. A Paris cablegram to the Buffalo Times says that this secret clause warns the Rothschilds against permitting marriages outside the family circle. It is pointed out that the Countess of Rosebery (Baroness Hanna Rothschild) and the Princess of Wagram, another Rothschild, die very young, while Rothschild women married to cousins and uncles of the talismanic name live to a ripe old age. The Times cablegram further says: "All the Rothschilds now living, male and female, are descended from the four sons of the original Amschel Rothschild, who flourished in the first part of the nineteenth century. The late Baron Alfonse was the son of Amschel's youngest boy, James, who married his own niece. Alfonse's daughter Bettina married Baron Albert of the Vienna branch, and two of his brothers, like himself, married Rothschild cousins. And the Frankfort, London and Vienna Rothschilds followed suit. Despite these inter-marriages, there has been no mental degeneration so far, but many of the Rothschild women have been attacked by cancer. Through inter-marriage with the Wagrams, the Rothschilds entered into relationship with the kaiser, who is a cousin and nephew of the Bavarian royal family, while the first Princess of Wagram was a Princess of Bavaria."

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY BONAPARTE has made another public statement with respect to his refusal to accept railroad transportation. Mr. Bonaparte says: "My declining to avail myself of the free passes sent me was not intended in any wise as a reflection either on the railroads whose officers tendered me this courtesy, or on other public officials whose opinion on this subject may differ from mine. I recognize fully that many highly estimable and altogether upright men in public life can see no objection to the acceptance of free passes. I think otherwise, and without criticising others I must act for myself and on my own convictions. I do not care to discuss the subject further, except to say that I have always thought it wise and right for a public man in a government like ours to seek the approval of public opinion when it does not contradict the promptings of his own conscience, and I believe public opinion approves the course I have taken in this respect."

CAPTAIN EVAN P. HOWELL, for many years prominently identified with southern journalism, died at Atlanta, August 6. Captain Howell was 65 years of age. Mrs. Howell and seven children survive him. In the early 80's Captain Howell associated with Henry W. Grady and purchased a controlling interest in the Atlanta Constitution. He was born in Georgia and during the Civil war served as a member of the First Georgia regiment, later commanding Howell's battery of artillery. Captain Howell held many public offices, concluding a term as mayor of Atlanta only last year.

JUDGE BRADY of the Kansas City police court, fined a citizen \$1.50 for failing to cut down weeds. The defense was that the objectionable growths were not weeds but sunflowers. Judge Brady said: "Sunflowers may be flowers in Kansas, but they are weeds in Missouri." The defendant, Dr. J. L. Flanders, a prominent physician, pointed out that the sunflower is the Kansas emblem and is not a weed. It is said he will take an appeal. Judge Brady says his ruling is upheld by a supreme court decision.

THE executive council of New York's Civic Federation has appointed a committee to investigate national and municipal ownership and operation of public utilities. Among members of the committee are the following named gentlemen: Melville E. Ingalls, president of the Big Four railroad; Isaac N. Seligman, treasurer of the Citizens' Union; Oscar S. Straus, Dr. Albert Shaw, editor of the Review of Reviews; Franklin MacVeagh of Chicago; Alexander H. Revell, president of the Chicago Civic Federation; Robert W. De Forest, Edward Rosewater, editor of the Omaha Bee; Charles W. Knapp, editor of the St.

Louis Republic; Austen G. Fox, John G. Agar, Frank A. Vanderlip, W. D. Mahon, president of the Association of Street Railway Employees; John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers of America; Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor; E. E. Clark, grand chief of the Brotherhood of Railway Conductors; Professor F. W. Taussig of Harvard, Professor Edwin R. A. Seligman of Columbia, Professor J. W. Jenks of Cornell, Professor Henry W. Farnam of Yale, Professor Frank J. Goodnow of Columbia University, Professor Leo S. Rowe of the University of Pennsylvania, Walton Clark, vice president of the Traction company of Philadelphia; Samuel Insull, president of the Edison company of Chicago; Hamilton Holt, editor of the Independent; Lawrence F. Abbott, editor of the Outlook; Talcott Williams, editor of the Philadelphia Press; Frank Parsons, president of the National Public Ownership League of Boston; Charles A. Conant, V. Everit Macy and Marcus M. Marks of New York.

THE Russian and Japanese peace envoys are in session at Portsmouth, New Hampshire. At the luncheon in honor of these distinguished visitors President Roosevelt gave this sentiment: "Gentlemen: I propose a toast to which there will be no answer and to which I have the honor to ask you to drink in silence, standing. I drink to the welfare and prosperity of the sovereigns and the people of the two great nations whose representatives have met one another on this ship. It is my most earnest hope and prayer, in the interest of not only these two great powers, but of all civilized mankind, that a just and lasting peace may speedily be concluded between them."

PORTSMOUTH dispatches say that the Russian delegates are instructed not to consent to a war indemnity. Walter Wellman says that Count Witte, the Russian representative, believes that the Japanese are far more eager for peace than they permit to become known, and that he thinks he can force the Japanese to accept a much smaller stake than they have set their hearts upon. Mr. Wellman quotes the Japanese journalists as saying that the people of Japan are more determined than the government upon harsh demands, and that while the government realizes the importance of not making "an eternal blood enemy of Russia" it would not dare to make a "weak peace." As Mr. Wellman says: "The Japanese government would not dare to make such a peace as the United States made after the Spanish American war, the conqueror paying the vanquished for territory already won."

IT WILL be remembered that in 1904 a New York paper charged that J. Pierpont Morgan's yacht had visited Oyster Bay and that the financier had paid a visit to Mr. Roosevelt. The story was bitterly denied. Oyster Bay dispatches under date of August 7 say that on that day Mr. Morgan took luncheon with Mr. Roosevelt and that it was officially announced that the financier had called to discuss the Canton-Hankow Chinese Railway concession. The Oyster Bay correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald says that the Hankow railway concession has passed from a financial to a political question; that King Leopold of Belgium, who was a large stock holder in the company, has urged Mr. Morgan not to sell to China the concession, China having offered \$7,000,000 for the same. It is now said that the sale will be postponed until the conclusion of the peace conference at Portsmouth.

AN EXTRAORDINARY case of the dead returned to life is reported under date of August 6 by the New Orleans correspondent for the New York World. This correspondent says: "The supposed dead yellow-fever victim was Emil Lopez, a young man, who was stricken with the plague some days ago. In spite of every effort, Lopez gradually sank and was at length declared dead by a reputable physician. Amid the wailings of the bereft family the body was laid out in a coffin ready for burial. Arrangements were made for the funeral today. A few hours before the burial time Mrs. Lopez went in to take a last

look at her boy. She stooped and kissed him, and as her lips touched his she was terrified to find that his face was warm and his lips moist. She summoned the members of the burial party and declared she believed her son was not dead. She kissed him a second time and cried out: 'He's alive! My boy's alive!' and then swooned. A call was made for the physician who pronounced Lopez dead, but he could not be found. Another doctor succeeded in bringing the youth back to life. He was unconscious for an hour or two, but he gradually regained his senses and is now almost recovered."

WASHINGTON dispatches say that William C. Sanger, of New York, will probably be appointed first Assistant Secretary of State to succeed Mr. Loomis, and that Mr. Loomis will be given a post in the diplomatic service. It will be remembered that Mr. Loomis figured conspicuously and somewhat discreditably in the famous Bowen-Loomis affair. The Washington correspondent of the New York World says: "Mr. Loomis is one of President Roosevelt's personal friends, and it is the intention of the president to transfer him to the diplomatic service, probably as ambassador to Mexico or Brazil. There is a slight hitch because Ambassador Thompson, the American representative at Rio Janeiro, is urging the president to transfer him to Mexico. If this is done Mr. Loomis will go to Brazil."

AN INTERESTING STORY under date of Kansas City, Mo., August 8, is told by a correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald in this way: "I tell you there is no vacancy," said United States Senator William Warner of Missouri, clad in his pajamas, in the small hours of the morning, as he stood in the aisle of a Pullman car, sound asleep, and shook his finger at the conductor. "There is no vacancy," he repeated. "I am sorry." Just then the train lurched and threw the senator against a berth, and he woke up. He rubbed his eyes, looked about him and said, "What was I saying? I beg your pardon, but I have walked and talked in my sleep for years." The conductor told him what he had said. "I have always held that the applicants for office haven't worried me," Major Warner said, "but I think they have begun to work on my brain, as I have taken to talking of them in my sleep." Major Warner was on his way home from Washington.

COMMANDANT TAKESHITA, the Japanese naval attache at Washington recently referred, according to a writer in the San Antonio Express, to an officer who had broken his parole. The commandant said: "He who once dishonors himself will be always dishonorable. I do not believe in repentance. I do not believe that we sin and become good again. Sin leaves us ineradicably soiled. Hence, it is futile to try to reform rascals and criminals. Covertly or openly, as the mood strikes them, these men answer our admonitions as the swindler answered the Yokohama judge. The swindler had come, footsore and weary, to the cottage of a poor man. There he had been entertained a month without payment. Finally, departing, he had borrowed the entire savings of the household that had sheltered him, pretending that, with this money for lawyer hire, he would be able to get an inheritance that had been withheld from him. So the hospitable poor man gave the swindler all his savings, and that was the end of the swindler, of course. But he was caught by the police a few months later, and at his trial he was proved guilty of having swindled his benefactor of his modest hoard. The judge, before sentencing the swindler, said to him reproachfully: 'How could you be so base as to swindle those honest folk who put confidence in you?' The swindler with a smile replied: 'Your honor, I'll make it worth your while if you'll tell me how to swindle those who don't put confidence in me.'"

MRS. FANNY SAQUI, of 769 Tremont avenue, New York, is a widow and conducts a small cigar store. The tobacco trust attempted to obtain possession of the Saqui store and offered to purchase it. Mrs. Saqui refused to sell. She was then told by the trust's agent that the trust