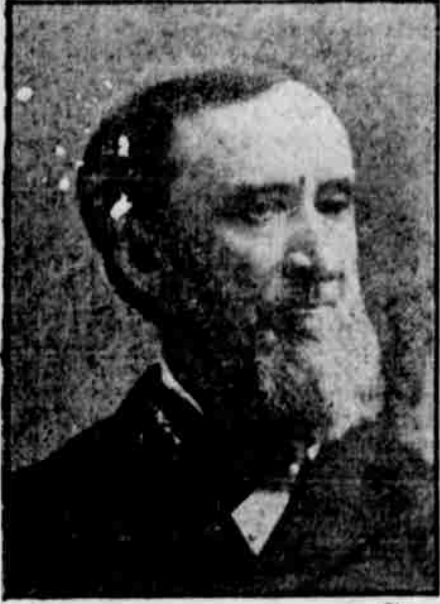


# Current Topics

## Senator Proctor's Coup.

Senator Redfield Proctor of Vermont, who has just acquired the celebrated Carrara marble quarries of Italy, has by this coup placed himself practically in control of the entire output of superfine marble in the world. He is now in Italy closing the deal, which will make him the owner of the re-



HON. REDFIELD PROCTOR.

owned quarries, for which, it is said, the interests he represents will pay the stupendous price of \$10,000,000. Senator Proctor was governor of Vermont from 1878 to 1880, and since 1884, when he was a delegate to the Republican national convention, has been eminent in American politics. He was secretary of war in the early part of President Harrison's administration, and resigned that portfolio in 1891 to go to the United States senate as an appointee to succeed Senator Edmunds. In 1892 he was regularly elected to succeed himself in 1893.

## Cricks of Seedmen.

The seed catalogues of the country last year noted 692 different kinds of cabbages. The seed section of the Department of Agriculture has been working on a general classification of American vegetables with the object of eliminating all the duplicate names which have been given to varieties, owing to the fact that each seedman has his own specially named vegetable of each species or variety—always described as an "improved" or more select strain than the ordinary variety offered for sale by the rest of humanity. The Department has slimmed these 692 cabbages down to a little over a hundred actual varieties. The seedmen have catalogued 312 different lettuces, whereas the Department can find only 87 actually different kinds. Beans, beets, cucumbers, etc., have likewise been taken up and classified and each variety has been found to have from three to four names.—Guy E. Mitchell.

## An Indian Millionaire.

Melvin Dempsey is the richest Indian in America. He is now in Chicago, which city he left three years ago, a poor man, going to Alaska as



MELVIN DEMPSEY.

the agent of a number of capitalists who had confidence in his ability as a mining engineer. Today he is a millionaire. He has 15 claims duly recorded and has just sold one for \$100,000. But he has done more than prospecting in Alaska; he has done religious work, having organized a Christian Endeavor society. He is a full-blooded Cherokee and is a famous man among his race, being a chemist, assayer, miner, musician, linguist and poet. He speaks besides his native dialect, English, Spanish, and six Indian dialects as much different from his own Cherokee as German is unlike French. He is a college graduate. Among the instruments he plays are the guitar, piano and mandolin.

## Renewed Boer Activity.

The new and effective activity of the Boers under De Wet and other burgher leaders is as disconcerting as it is expensive for the British. It thoroughly discounts the official theory that the South African war is over. How thoroughly it does so may be seen in the official postponement of the jubilation with which Lord Roberts was to have been received in London on January 3. Instead of celebrating the close of the war it now becomes necessary for the war office to consider the advisability of sending reinforcements to General Kitchener, in spite of the fact that he still has over 200,000 men with which to fight the remnant of the original 80,000 Boers.

## Siberia as an Actuality.

M. Pierre Leroy-Beaulieu, who has just embodied the results of a long journey through Asia in his book "The Awakening of the East," leaves an impression of Siberia which makes it more like America than any other part of Europe. He even mentions the miserable streets of Tomsk, one of the leading cities of the land, as reminding him of the thoroughfares of Chicago, they are so bad. In all the large towns the telephone is in use, and at a smaller rental than is charged in the country of its invention. Electric lighting, too, prevails in the three or four larger towns, and trolley cars are far from being unknown; in fact, the innumerable poles with swinging, crossing wires in all the streets make the city view a most American one.

In some things the Siberian city people appear to have an advantage. Cabs ply the streets on demand for sixpence, the fare, and make much better time than most cabs. But one striking difference did not fail to make its appeal to this traveled Frenchman: As in Russia itself, few persons are to be seen in the public streets, though a large and flourishing business is transacted.

Tomsk boasts a thriving university with 500 students already enrolled and the numbers increasing annually. Law is studied, and a school of medicine is soon to be added. There is a library connected with the institution containing 200,000 volumes, nearly all privately contributed. At the theater, while M. Leroy-Beaulieu was there, an excellent performance of "The Taming of the Shrew" was given in Russian, with "Mme. Sans-Gene" as an afterpiece.

## He Defends Slavery.

Major Richard H. Pratt, superintendent of the Carlisle Indian school,



MAJ. RICHARD H. PRATT.

who has created a sensation by writing a letter to Francis H. Hill, colored bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal church, in which he defends slavery of the negro, is an officer of the Tenth United States Cavalry, a negro regiment. The major was appointed to the army from civil life. He is 60 years old, and began his military career as an enlisted man with the Ninth Indiana Infantry. He afterward joined the cavalry and fought with distinction during the civil war. He entered the regular army in 1867 as lieutenant, and was brevetted captain for gallant services in the war of the rebellion. Major Pratt is a native of New York state. He will retire in 1904.

## The All-American Idea.

Why should England refuse to accept the compact that the senate is now formulating as a substitute for the outgrown Clayton-Bulwer treaty? asks the Chicago Inter Ocean. The British government must understand by this time that the American people will have an American canal or none. Lord Salisbury must realize how greatly the world position of the United States has altered in the last fifty years. He must also realize that to attempt a perpetual veto of American aspirations is a task certain to involve the greatest hazards for England.

## Historic Vessel's Mission.



Admiral Farragut's old flagship will back up Minister Loomis' representation to the Venezuelan government on the subject of American concessions in that country. The Hartford was remodeled a year ago, and is now a training ship. She is in Venezuelan waters.

## PURELY PERSONAL

### Charged with Looting.

Lady Macdonald, who has been publicly charged in London newspapers with looting the imperial palace at Peking, is the wife of Sir Claude Macdonald, former British minister to China, and at present minister to Japan. The story, which is indignantly denied by the lady's friends and denounced as a malicious and brutal attack on the character of a good wom-



LADY MACDONALD.

an, is to the effect that Lady Macdonald personally superintended a number of coolies who had been ordered by her to take from the palace certain treasures of Chinese art, together with other objects having religious use and of priceless value to the Chinese. Lady Macdonald, before her marriage to Sir Claude, was Ethel Armstrong Robertson, the beautiful daughter of Major W. Cairns Armstrong and widow of P. C. Robertson of the East Indian service.

### Unruly Boys for the Navy.

The plan agreed upon in Judge Tutthill's court, Chicago, for sending some of the boys of the John Worthy school, a local reformatory, to the training ships of the United States navy is commendable. Most of the boys will be glad to become naval apprentices, and two or three years of naval discipline will be the making of them. What they need is a proper outlet for their superabundant energies. As a rule the lack of parental control rather than innate viciousness has made them what they are. In the navy they will get plenty of useful activity along with the strict control which they need. They will at once have a desirable career to look forward to, and there is no reason to doubt that many of them will win more than average honors as seamen and gunners in after life.

### Henry Cabot Lodge.

Henry Cabot Lodge, who had charge of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty in the senate and who marshaled the forces favorable to ratification, is generally accounted a bright and shining example of "the scholar in politics." He began his public career as a member of the fiftieth congress, and has been a congressman or senator ever since.



SENATOR LODGE.

Mr. Lodge is a lawyer, but, although admitted to the bar, never practiced. His profession, as he himself describes it in the congressional directory, is "that of literature." The junior Massachusetts senator is 50 years old.

### Sultan Is Tender Hearted.

It would appear from a recent incident that the sultan of Turkey shares with his satanic majesty the distinction of not being so black as he is painted. A theatrical troupe appeared in his private theater and gave "Othello." When the moment came for the murder of Desdemona the sultan was so affected and struck with pity for her that he called out and forbade that she should be smothered.

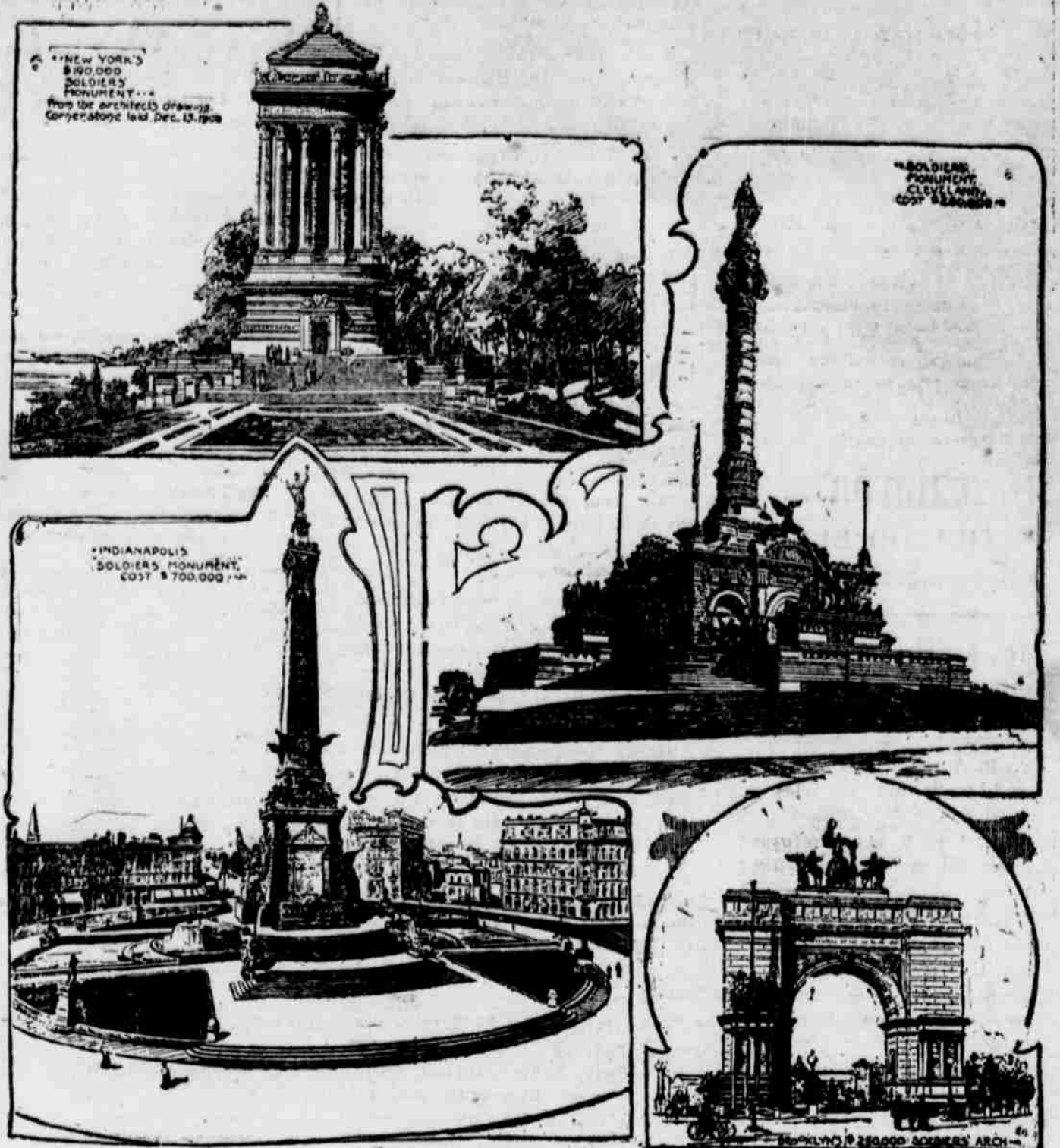
### A Novel Wedding Gift.

The daughter of Mr. Souvorin, the well-known editor and publisher of the Novoe Vremya, St. Petersburg, has been married to Mr. Miasoleff-Ivanoff, the son of the minister of ways and communications. The bridegroom is to enjoy the daily profits of one of the advertising pages of the Novoe Vremya, and this curious wedding gift is causing considerable amusement in St. Petersburg.

### Mrs. Stephens' Portrait.

A portrait of Mrs. Lon V. Stephens has been hung in the executive mansion at Jefferson City, Mo. Portraits of former governors are there in plenty, but there were none of their wives or female relatives, so that of Mrs. Stephens is the first to be hung there.

# Some New War Monuments.



Of the nation's four great monuments to the northern soldiers of the civil war, New York has two—or, rather, it will have upon the completion of the Temple of Fame on Riverside Drive, the corner stone of which was laid the other day in that city. The other memorial is the beautiful arch at the Plaza entrance to Prospect Park in Brooklyn. This cost the old city of Brooklyn \$250,000, while New York's monument will cost \$190,000. Cleveland has a soldiers' monument, the actual cost of which was \$240,000, though legal fights over the site, etc., brought the total cost up \$40,000 more. And finest and most costly of all is the towering shaft which Indiana has just completed in her capital city of Indianapolis, and which cost the state \$700,000.

The present site of New York's monument is the fourth which has been agreed upon.

### Cleveland Monument.

Cleveland passed through a longer and bitter fight before Cuyahoga county's monument was erected and dedicated. The project was broached first in 1879, and the site suggested was the center of the Public Square or Monumental Park. For eight years the idea of a civil war monument languished, and in 1887 the project was revived by the choice of the southeast section of the square, which necessitated the removal of Commodore Perry's monument. The men of the G. A. R. and the county commissioners who had control of the public parks couldn't agree on the site or upon the designs for the monument and its erection. The controversy was taken into the courts,

and the various decisions sometimes favored one side and sometimes the other, but the final victory was won by the G. A. R. In the spring of 1891 the monument commission took possession of the site, and then began a year's fight, sometimes hand to hand, in which the police several times took part. Actual work on the site was begun in August, 1892, and on the tenth of the next month came the anniversary of Perry's victory. Now it was discovered suddenly that Perry's statue had been neglected shamefully for 30 years, and the opponents of the site for the soldiers' monument made a outcry over the coming removal of the Perry monument, and Cleveland awoke on the morning of Sept. 10 to find that for the first time in 32 years the Perry monument was decorated with flowers. After every one had a good laugh over this and it was thought that peace had been restored W. D. Hoyt of Manchester, N. H., who owned property on the square, sought to enjoin the commission from putting up the monument on the ground, as in the recent New York case, that it would cut off his light and air, and he was defeated speedily, and in the spring of 1893 work was resumed and carried on so expeditiously that on July 4, 1894, the monument was dedicated. The legal fight had cost the city \$40,000.

### Indianapolis Has the Finest.

The first appropriation for the monument in Indianapolis was made in 1887. Early in the following year the commissioners selected from among 70 designs for the monument that submitted by Bruno Schmidt of Berlin. Work began that year, and in August, 1889, the corner stone was laid. The monument stands in Governor's Circle, two squares east of the Capitol. It rises to the height of 268 feet, and at 220 feet there is a lookout which affords a fine view of the city. The monument has its own electric plant, which furnishes the power to run the elevators and for the lights. The monument takes the form of a shaft, surmounted by a bronze figure of "Miss Indiana," twenty-eight feet high. On the east and west sides of the base of the shaft are the groups of statuary representing War and Peace, and which are the largest groups of figures cut from the rough stone in the world. About these groups are figures cast in bronze, emblematic of the army and navy. On the plazas surrounding the monument are bronze statues of George Rogers Clark, the explorer, and Governors William Henry Harrison, Oliver P. Morton and James Whitcomb.

**The Brooklyn Arch.**  
The designer of the Brooklyn Arch was John H. Duncan, the man from New Orleans who designed also the magnificent Grant monument on Riverside Drive, New York. Work was begun on the arch in 1889, and it was dedicated in October, 1892, the ceremonies aiding in the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the discovery. The material is granite, and the arch stands eighty feet high, the total width being the same, and the archway fifty feet high and thirty-five feet wide. The arch is crowned by a group of statuary by Macmonnies representing the navy. On either abutment of the side of the arch that faces the park will be a group of Macmonnies' statuary. One of these groups is in place, but is not completed.

# A STRENGTH MACHINE.



Dr. Dudley Allen Sargent, director of the gymnasium at Harvard university, has just brought before the scientific world a strength machine which embodies in an intricate and wonderful manner all the forms of exercise which go to the highest development of man. The machine is called an inomotor. It has as yet been seen by only a few physical experts, but by them it is pronounced a wonderful machine.

Dr. Sargent worked on his invention four years, and he feels that in it he has a plan of exercise and development which will revolutionize gymnasium work. The machine is described best as a pair of levers connected by four adjustable rods with a sliding seat and a sliding footrest, which are

in turn connected by a power applying crank to crank on a gear and sprocket wheel. It aims not only to strengthen the principal muscles of the body in the best and most natural way, but also to bring them into action at one time, so that the heart and lungs will get plenty of work to do without fear of overexertion or strain. Every movement of the feet, arms, trunk and legs add to the propelling force; the exercise is pleasant and enjoyable, and the muscles of the operator may be used simultaneously or relaxed at will. In addition to these qualities the machine acts especially on the back, waist and abdominal regions, which boom the weak points of the American people, and does away with round shoulders

### Boston in the Cup Race.

The announcement that Boston will be represented in the trial races for the honor of defending the America Cup against Sir Thomas Lipton's yacht has created something like a panic in the New York Yacht club. At first there was most decided opposition manifested among the members to any contestant not sailing under the auspices of that club, and it was argued it was not according to the regulations in any event, as the prospective owner of the new contestant is not a member of the club. The liberal spirit of some of the members, however, as well as the sharp protests made in the press, has silenced the remonstrants, and there will be no further opposition made to the boat now building by Crowninshield for Lawson. Most unquestionably fear has had much to do with this opposition. The coast from Eastport to Cape Cod swarms with yachts—a hundred to one that sails in New York bay. In the sea coast towns there are not only a large number of professional yachtsmen, but almost every man, woman, boy and girl is more or less expert in the fine points of sailing. The whole atmosphere of that coast is one of yachting, and every day in the season, fair or foul, its waters are covered with the white winged flyers. The New Yorkers, therefore, have every reason to fear Boston, much more, in fact, than they have to fear Lipton.

Lady Kenmare, who has done so much for the poor people on Lord Kenmare's Irish estates, intends next year to personally superintend the hotel on the lovely Lake of Killarney, which is their property. Killarney house, their own residence, is exquisitely situated on the same lake at no great distance from the hotel.