



Author and Diplomat.

John Barrett of Oregon, formerly United States minister and consul general to Siam, has been appointed by the president a delegate to the international conference of American states, which will be held in the City of Mexico. Mr. Barrett made an excellent record during the three years he spent in Bangkok as American minister. Since his return to this country he has won by his writings a widespread reputation as an authority on the commercial problems and possibilities of the far East in relation to European and American industry and trade. Mr. Barrett is a native of Vermont, a graduate of Dartmouth and a scholar of merit in the science of national economics. He has made special stud-



JOHN BARRETT.

ies of the South and its industries, and his writings on that subject are profound and important. For several years he has made his home in Portland, Oregon, but owing to his extensive travels at home and abroad, he has not spent much of his time in that city.

The British Budget.

"You have had your feast," says the English chancellor of the exchequer. "You have all, Liberals and Tories, been mad for rioting and expenditure. Now comes the reckoning, and you may laugh or not, as you please." There will be no laughter. The English taxpayers were hilarious at the beginning of the Boer war. They are not now when the bills have to be paid and they are so much heavier than it was supposed they would be. The total cost of the war will be about \$1,000,000,000, necessitating a great increase of the national debt and heavier taxation for years to come. It is possible that if this could have been foreseen the Boers would have been let alone.

A large proportion of the expense of a war whereby Great Britain is acquiring possession of devastated territories inhabited by an irreconcilable population will have to be paid by posterity. The budget of the chancellor of the exchequer contemplates a loan of nearly \$300,000,000 in addition to new taxes, which it is estimated will produce about \$56,000,000. The payment of increased taxes to that amount would not seriously inconvenience American taxpayers—whose taxes are to be reduced about \$40,000,000. Those of Great Britain are not in so good a condition to meet new demands. The income tax is now 5 per cent. It is to be raised to a little over 5.8 per cent. It may be higher yet in a year or two. As consols held by foreigners pay an income tax American financiers may not be ready to invest in the new loan.

Beer, spirits, tobacco, and tea are

Reputed Fiancee of Lieutenant Hobson

Miss Florida Whiting Graves, the reputed fiancee of Lieutenant Richmond Pearson Hobson, is one of the beauties of Birmingham, Ala., and is also well known in Washington society. No positive announcement of the engagement has been made, and when the hero of the Merrimac is asked whether or not the report is true he smiles and says nothing. The engagement, however, is said to be a settled fact by friends of Mr. Hobson. During the congressional season the young naval officer and Miss Graves were much together and they made a prominent and pretty figure in the parades of fashionable folk. During her visit here the Alabama girl was a guest of Congressman and Mrs. Bankhead. She soon attracted widespread attention by her remarkable beauty. She is of me-



taxed heavily already. The chancellor of the exchequer does not deem an increase advisable. He will not listen to propositions to impose duties on breadstuffs or foreign manufactures. Great Britain may come to such duties in time, but is not ready for them yet. For the first time in many years sugar, an article of universal consumption, which has cost less in Great Britain than in any other country, will have to furnish revenue. There has been an immediate advance in its price, which may provoke complaints. American manufacturers of jams and jellies will find British competition less serious than it has been.

The proposed export duty of 25 cents a ton on coal will produce considerable revenue and will by discouraging exportations tend to cheapen the price of the article in the home market. The expenses of railroads, manufacturers, and private consumers have been increased greatly by the high price of coal. A duty which tends to make it more expensive in neutral markets must work to the advantage of American coal operators. They will be given an opportunity.

An Expensive Junket.

The British admiralty's estimate of the cost of the trip of the Duke and Duchess of York on the steamship Ophir includes the following items: Wages of crew, \$41,980; victualing and clothing, \$9,880; coal, \$125,000; naval stores, \$3,140; hire of the Ophir, \$633,500; total, \$813,500. The British taxpayers are a loyal class of people, but when they read in Sir Michael Hicks-Beach's budget statement that the Boer war has added \$275,000,000 to the debt, that the deficit last year was \$255,935,000, and that they must pay \$56,000,000 of new taxes this year, they will read the admiralty's estimate of the expense of the Duke of York's junketing trip with somewhat mixed feelings.

An Able Churchman.

Right Rev. William Stubbs, D. D., bishop of Oxford, died in London, England, last week. He was 76 years old and had occupied the Oxford bishopric since 1889, when he was transferred from the see of Chester, over which he had ruled for five years. Bishop Stubbs was an author of international



repute. As a British historian he occupied a high place in the estimation of the British people. His constitutional history of England's standard and his cognate works on this subject are widely read and prized. He was honored with several decorations, British and foreign, among them the Prussian Order of Merit. The deceased was a cousin of the dean of Ely, who lately visited America.

California did not figure in the census returns of the United States until 1850. Then its population was 92,597.

A COUNTRY ROAD.



A dusty, stone way, whose bordering sod is thick with blackberries and goldenrod; Abrupt, bare hills on one side looking down, And from the other you can see the town; Follow the river's course through meadows green, O'er which thick woods and marble ledges lean.

A little further, where the road descends, A brook's soft tinkle with some bird song blends, (Gone from its edge the dear old dame's small cot Half hidden by quaint flowers) lush bergamot Makes sweet its banks, its depths the boys still swim, Or watch the minnows from some willow limb.

Upon its bridge how often I have stood, Watching the west, whose glory seemed to flood With tenderest light the poorhouse and Beside it—turn to gold the brooklet's waves— Till from the hill, oh, dearest sight of I saw my father and I heard him call.

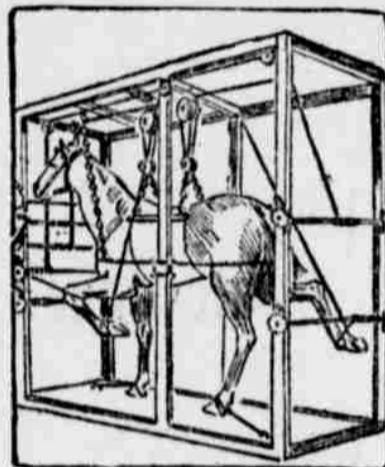
He came with sturdy stride and swinging gait— My hand in his—told my day's whole tale Of joys, that "neath my bright smile seemed to grow, While lessened was my every childish woe, As his sweet words fell on my soul like balm, While we walked homeward through the fragrant calm.

—Mary M. McCarthy.



Novel Horseshoeing Rack.

Shoeing a fractious horse is not a task to be envied by any one, and there is always danger of accident to the man who performs the work in the ordinary manner, as the animal seems possessed of the idea that the hoofs were made to defend itself with instead of to be shod. In addition to the danger to the shoer, the animal is liable to injure itself in the argument and especially in this case in shoeing colts for the first time, when fright is generally the chief cause of trouble. To overcome these difficulties John Cea of Iowa has designed the horseshoeing rack shown in the illustration, the inventor claiming that the mechanism will hold all parts of the animal securely in any desired position, at the same time relieving the horse of all strain and depriving it of the power of injuring itself or the blacksmith.



PREVENTS INJURY TO SHOER.

It will be seen that numerous straps and windlasses are provided, which will not only firmly hold each foot, but will lift the animal bodily from the floor and keep him suspended while the labor is going on. It is also probable that after a few applications of the machine to a fractious horse he could be induced to stand quietly while being shod without the use of the appliances.

Another Ecumenical Conference.

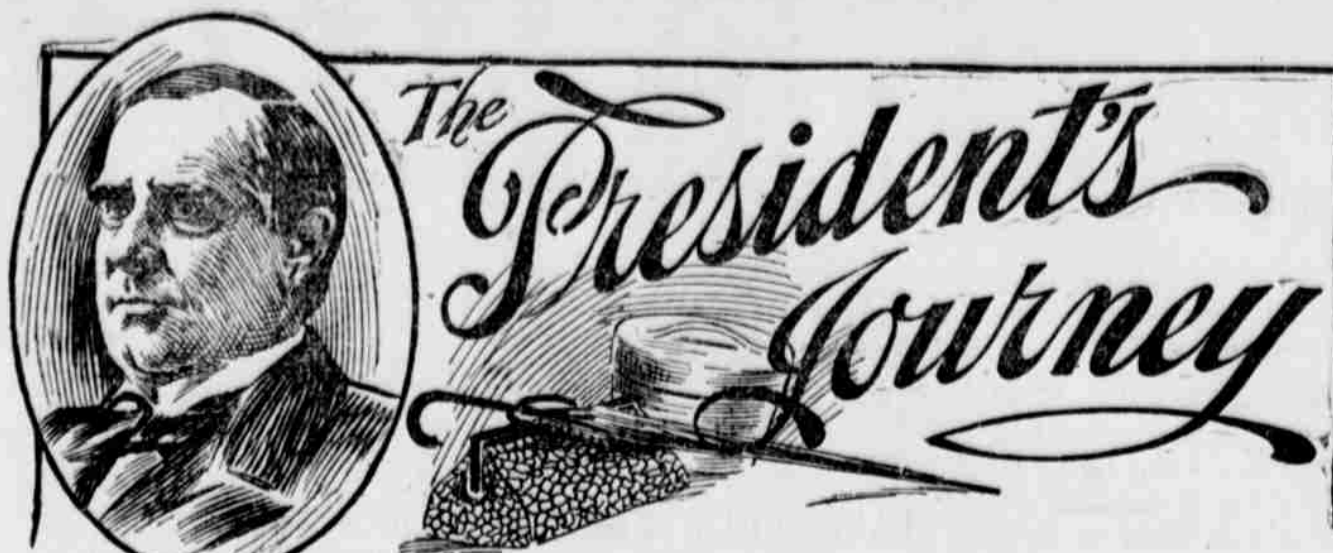
The first ecumenical conference of the Methodist church was held in London in 1881. The second met in Washington, D. C., Oct. 7, 1891. The third will meet in Wesley's chapel, City road, London, in September next.

The coming conference will discuss the present position of Methodism, the influence of Methodism in the promotion of international peace, the relation of Methodism to the Evangelical free church movement, Methodism and Christian unity, Methodism and education in the twentieth century, and Christianity and modern unbelief, but it will not discuss any question upon which the Methodists have divided.

Whether these ecumenical conferences have promoted closer fellowship among Methodists is an open question, but it is contended that the conferences have promoted concerted action among Methodists on important public and religious questions. Reports are to be made at the coming conference as to means for still further promoting united action on questions of common interest to the laity and the clergy.

England's Big Loan.

The British government has issued an invitation for subscriptions to one-half the new loan of \$300,000,000, stating at the same time that the other half has already been placed. There is loud complaint because no explanation is offered. The London Chronicle voices the dissatisfaction of the public when it speaks of the issue as a "disastrous" one, "in which the British taxpayer drops the round sum of \$3,300,000 in the process of borrowing \$60,000,000." Part of it has been loaned in New York.



The presidential excursion will not come to an end until June 12, on which date the president and his party of guests will arrive home in Washington after having traversed 21 states and three territories. The train is, with one exception, the finest that modern mechanical ingenuity could devise. The exception is the special train in which W. Seward Webb makes long trips. Mr. Webb has what is admitted to be the finest private car in the world, and the train in which he travels is always most elaborately equipped in every way. Usually when the president is about to take a long journey the Pullman Company has some cars just reaching completion which are intended for use on the Congressional Limited, the famous Chicago Limited, or some like trains, are made up into a train for the president's use. Such was the case this time. The train has all the modern comforts of limited travel. There is a baggage car which also contains a dynamo to furnish electricity to the whole train, a barber shop and a bath room. There is a dining car. This car is manned by a picked crew of the best waiters of the Pullman service. When the train is

Besides the cars mentioned there is a White House car on the president's train. This is virtually a traveling-executive office. The president's clerks occupy it and Secretary Cortelyou will there keep up the correspondence of the president with all the world by mail and telegraph. The president's own car will be his castle. Here he and Mrs. McKinley will live. They will have their private staterooms, with brass beds and silken hangings. They will have their dining room equipped with silver and cut glass; there will be fresh flowers on the table every day. They will have their observation room from which they can view the country through which the train passes. Here the president can be alone if he chooses or he can entertain his friends. From the rear of the train he can bow to the crowds as the train moves slowly through a village, or, reaching over the railing, he can shake hands with the enthusiasts who crowd around the president's car wherever he stops for even a minute. Or he can make a speech if he is moved to do so, and the chances are that he will at many places.

France and England united in a naval demonstration. England knew that her act would be distasteful to the United States, with which country she had for two years been at the point of war. Seeing that it did not provoke us to hostility, England withdrew from the conspiracy. The French troops overthrew Mexico's weak government. A Mexican faction invited Maximilian to assume a crown that it had no right to offer. When the civil war permitted, the United States came to Mexico's rescue. France was warned to withdraw her troops. Sheridan was sent with an army to the Rio Grande. The Mexican patriots were supplied with arms. The French army retired. The deluded Maximilian remained, to be captured, tried, and executed by the people he had attempted to subjugate. That the Emperor Francis Joseph should cherish against the Mexicans resentment for his brother's death was quite natural, and yet unreasonable. For, while Maximilian held the rifles that ended Maximilian's life, Louis Napoleon loaded them and the United States pulled the triggers. The Mexicans, though they had suffered the greater injury, were ready to forgive and forget, but the Austrian court long persisted in its rancor. Perhaps the aged Francis Joseph has learned from his many sorrows the Christian duty of forgiveness. He re-



THE PRESIDENT SHAKING HANDS AMONG THE CROWD



THE PRESIDENT SPEAKING FROM THE REAR PLATFORM

bounding over the sands of Arizona the waiter in the dining car will appear at table clad in a snowy jacket with a carnation in his button-hole. This car is stocked with the very finest the market affords. To those who travel with the president all these things are free. The president does not use this dining car, but has his own private dining room on the car in which he lives.

After the dining car comes the car devoted to the members of the cabinet and their families. This is a very fine state-room car and each cabinet officer has his private room. The newspaper correspondents on the president's train share the car of Secretary Cortelyou. There are three newspaper representatives and three photographers representing the great weekly periodicals. There is a special railroad representative to see that all arrangements on the railroads are carried out, and there is a special representative of the Western Union Telegraph Company to assist in the filing of news dispatches. No individual daily paper is allowed representatives on the train because every paper in the country would want to send a correspondent if it could. So the newspapers get their reports from the representatives of the press associations.

Wherever the president's train stops for more than a day the party leave the cars and go to some hotel.

Mexico and Austria.

The Mexican republic and the Austrian empire, after thirty-five years of real though passive hostility, are about to resume friendly relations. The tragedy of which the unfortunate Maximilian was the central figure nears its final scene. Most of its great actors have passed from the stage. The survivors are about to admit that justice was done and to bury their long quarrel in oblivion.

The attempt to set up a European empire in Mexico originated in Louis Napoleon's desire to distract his people's attention from his own corrupt government. Mexico's failure to pay certain bonds was the immediate ex-

caused to be dedicated at Queretaro, with ceremonies in which the Mexican people joined with sympathy, but without regret, a chapel to his brother's memory. Now he is about to welcome the envoy of the people his brother sought to wrong. At last he recognizes the fact that the safety of the people is the supreme law, to which personal griefs must yield. Even the house of Hapsburg at last admits that the only "divine right" is the people's will.

Tearing Down to Build Up.

Wreckers are at present employed upon the A. T. Stewart palace, at Fifth avenue and Thirty-fourth street, New York. The material of which the magnificent dwelling was composed is being carted away to all parts of Manhattan island. Much of it will be used in the construction of smaller buildings. The marble of which the exterior walls were built is being sold to stonecutters. Great pieces of the finest Carrara marble, beautifully polished, which lined the dining-room and the ballroom, as well as those used in the wainscoting of the corridors, are to be transformed into shafts, headstones, tombs, urns, broken columns and pillars to mark the resting places of the dead.

The annihilation of this beautiful pile is suggestive of the fate that has overtaken nearly all of the great merchant's achievements. The princely fortune that he left is scattered. His great store on Tenth street was long ago eclipsed by others a mile farther up town. His working women's hotel has been converted to other uses. Aside from the identity of his name with one or two benevolences, there will be nothing left in a few years to remind the city of which A. T. Stewart was for years the greatest merchant that he ever lived.

He did not build as wisely as some of the rich men of a later day. Commercialism entered into nearly all of his undertakings, and with the removal of his personality the monuments he created ceased to have life. Of all his investments, only those which were made to benefit others have any vitality today. These, unfortunately, are neither numerous nor conspicuous in a city and a country which in our time abound in great philanthropies.

Mrs. Margaret Deland, the novelist, has begun a series of flower sales at her Boston home for the benefit of the poor of that city.

Late Runs in the Family.

In June next, Ruth, the second daughter of Senator Mason, will graduate from the Washington College of Law at Washington, D. C., as a full-fledged attorney and counselor. She is not decided whether she will hang out a shingle and wait for a practice or content herself with the satisfaction that if she wanted to practice she could. It has been suggested that she might enter the offices of her father and brother, but it is thought more likely that she will give herself up to musical studies connected with the piano and violin. Miss Mason is a graduate of a Chicago high school. In her four years' course there she held 90 per cent average, which entitled her to be a teacher without examination. The young lady is interested in athletics, a player in tennis tournaments



and the best horsewoman among the younger Washington girls. She has traveled much in America and in Europe.