

Current Topics

The Weekly Panorama.

A Noted Chinese Statesman.

A noted Chinese statesman recently beheaded by order of the dowager empress because of his too liberal views was well known in diplomatic circles at Washington, as he had served as minister from his country to the United States from 1886 to the latter part of 1889. He was Chang Yen Hoon. His death occurred last July, but the outside world became aware of the fact only a few days since. Chang was an able diplomat and well thought of in official circles. He was a pronounced antiquarian, and while in this country made many visits to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, where he could study its rare collection of priceless antiquities. Especially on the specimens from his native land was he an authority, and his information in connection with them was of great aid to the antiquarians of the United States. A memento of his visit to this country is to be found at the



CHANG YEN HOON.

Metropolitan Museum of Art. It consists of a hammered bronze vase of the Han dynasty, and is over 2,000 years old. This was presented in 1897 while he was returning home from Queen Victoria's jubilee.

Opera Singer Arrested.

Another American woman has been subjected to the ignominy of arrest and detention by the infamous Brigades Moeurs, as that particular division of the Parisian police are designated, which is entrusted with the duty of putting into execution the laws dealing with the women of the half world. The most recent victim of the Brigade des Moeurs is May Garlick of Baltimore, wife of the Marquis de Feo. She is now seriously ill from the effects of the brutal

and vile treatment to which she was subjected by the police, who, insisting that she was a notorious character, arrested her and kept her for several hours in prison until she was identified. Then she was released with the usual apologies. May Garlick, prior to her unfortunate marriage, was one of the leading singers of the Castle Square Opera company at the American theater in New York. Her husband, who is an Italian, deserted her after shamefully mistreating her, leaving her without means, whereupon she returned to the operatic stage, making her European debut at Monte Carlo.

Dr. Edward A. Ross, who has been at the head of the department of economics and sociology in Stanford university since 1893, has just been elected an associate member of the Institute International de Sociologie at Paris. There are only five other members of this society in the United States.

Miss Babby Jones.

Two years ago Mme. Alva, a singer famous in Australia, volunteered to sing one evening at Bendigo before some nuns who were about to go into retreat. She is now informed that a wealthy Australian, in recognition of her kindness, "as well as of her magnificent endowment as a vocalist," has left her \$175,000, which is at the rate of \$25,000 for each of the seven songs she rendered. Mme. Alva is a Protestant.

Daughter of Gov. Dan W. Jones, who will christen the Monitor Arkansas at Newport News, Va., Nov. 10.

A Spanish paper asserts that two descendants of Columbus, Manuel and Maria Columbus, brother and sister, are at present inmates of the asylum for the homeless in the city of Cadiz. It is said that documents in their possession incontestably prove their descent.

Gen. Frost Passes Away.

General D. M. Frost, one of the most distinguished citizens of St. Louis, died suddenly at his home in that city last week. His death was very sudden, for, although the general was 77 years old, he had been remarkably healthy and had not complained of any illness.



Gen. Frost was a native of New York and a graduate of West Point in the class of 1844. He had fought with distinction in the Mexican war, and the outbreak of the civil war found him in St. Louis a prosperous lumber merchant. He took sides with the confederacy and for two years served in that cause. The principal incident in his civil war career was his defense of Camp Jackson in this city and his surrender in May, 1861, to the federal troops under General Lyon. The state militia had been called together for their annual drill and were encamped under Frost on the outskirts of the town. Before they could find an opportunity actively to express their sympathies with the south they were captured by the home guards and the Missouri volunteers. After the close of the war General Frost returned to St. Louis and settled on his farm near the city. One of his sons, R. Graham Frost, who died several months ago, represented a Missouri district in congress.

Knew Lincoln as a Boy.

There was held near Galesburg, Ill., recently, a celebration in honor of the ninety-first anniversary of the birth of John T. Barnett, or Squire Barnett, as he is generally known. It took place at the log home west of Galesburg, and many descendants from Knox and Warren counties were present.

A peculiar interest attaches to the life of Mr. Barnett, for he was one of the young men friends of Abraham Lincoln, who was a few months his senior.

The squire says that Lincoln and he were often together, and that, although he thought much of Lincoln, he never voted for him but once, and that was when he ran for the legislature against Peter Cartwright. He recalls many pleasant incidents. When he first became acquainted with Lincoln the lat-



JOHN L. BARNETT.

ter was engaged with William Berry, son of John Berry, in running a grocery.

Powers Agree on China.

The agreement between Great Britain and Germany on a common Chinese policy is accepted by the United States and Russia as a pledge rather than as a guide to their own action. In responding our government simply assents to principles which it was the first to formulate, namely, the principle of the open door and the principle of the preservation of Chinese territorial and administrative entity. Under the circumstances an assumption of leadership on the part of the two contracting powers would be absurd, and we have only to reaffirm our own views without giving promises.

Received \$25,000 Per Song.

Two years ago Mme. Alva, a singer famous in Australia, volunteered to sing one evening at Bendigo before some nuns who were about to go into retreat. She is now informed that a wealthy Australian, in recognition of her kindness, "as well as of her magnificent endowment as a vocalist," has left her \$175,000, which is at the rate of \$25,000 for each of the seven songs she rendered. Mme. Alva is a Protestant.



Mme. Alva.

Illinois and Texas.

The state of Illinois has 995,199 more inhabitants than it had in 1890. Its numerical gain is exceeded by New York and Pennsylvania alone, and is barely exceeded by the latter state. The percentage of gain, being 26 per cent, is equalled by that of no other large state, with the exception of Texas. The increase in population in Illinois between 1880 and 1890 was 748,480, being a little less than 25 per cent.

A Woman Major.

The only woman major in the United States army is Mrs. Belle L. Reynolds, of Santa Barbara, Cal. Mrs. Reynolds is a native of Massachusetts. When 14 years old she removed to the west and at the opening of the civil war, when her husband enlisted in the Seventeenth Illinois, she joined him at Bird's Point, Mo., commencing a life of three years in the camp and on the field, helping the wounded and sick. After the battle of Pittsburg Landing she received her commission as major from Gov. Yates of Illinois. She was at Vicksburg, Miss., when Gen. Grant dared the experiment of running the batteries, and she entered that city with the triumphant army.

After the war she studied medicine in Chicago and became a practitioner. Later she removed to Santa Barbara.



MRS. BELLE L. REYNOLDS. When trouble arose in the Philippines she went there as a Red Cross nurse. She has since returned home.

Negro Registrar of the Treasury.

A colored man is the watchdog of the nation's wealth and, with Secretary Gage and Treasurer Roberts,

forms a triumvirate that controls the money stock of the republic. Not a dollar can be paid from the federal treasury without the assent of these two and the negro, Judson W. Lyons, registrar of the treasury. Furthermore



Judson Lyons.

the name of the latter must appear on every bill and bond issued by the government. Of course, he cannot personally sign every note issued from the bureau of printing and engraving, so his name is cut into the steel dies from which the bills are struck. But his personal signature is required on the registered bonds and he is often compelled to handle 5,000 of these in a day, the average value of registered bonds issued per day being \$5,000,000.

Mr. Lyons is the successor of B. K. Bruce, also a negro, who died in 1898. He is a Georgian and is 42 years of age. He has taught school, studied law at Howard university, and practiced his profession at Augusta, Ga.

Like Li Hung Chang.

The accompanying picture is not one of Li Hung Chang, the able Chinese statesman, although it bears a striking resemblance to him. It is that of an Eskimo, discovered by the Arctic explorer, A. J. Stone, and is reproduced from The World's Work. One can see in the face of the picture many oriental characteristics. The head is Mongolian in its cast and Chinese guilefulness and cunning are expressed in every feature.



Heroine of Peking.

Miss Cecile Payen, the Chicago portrait painter who shared with Mrs. and Miss Woodward of Evanston the long siege of Peking, reached Chicago last week. Miss Payen gives an interesting description of the siege, which, she says was not so black as it was



MISS CECILE PAYEN.

Painted, one of the chief troubles of those within the walls being the thought of the anxious ones at home. She was just completing a portrait when the first scare came to the legation, and after the momentary excitement had died away she persuaded her sitter to give her another hour, in which she completed the picture.

GAS NOW DELIVERED IN CANS.

Undoubtedly one of the most remarkable features of the Paris exhibition just closed has been the multiplicity of curious and novel systems for producing light. In electricity the extraordinary electric lamp that must be lighted with a match proved one of the triumphs of the German section. In gas lighting the portable boxes of a Paris company have already found their way into general use. Acetylene, that peculiar French discovery and invention, astonished the visitor by its white effulgence all along the Seine, between the new bridge and the Street

whispering together over something in the municipal and house-lighting line that is absolutely sensational. The discovery or invention contemplates the disintegration at the burner of common air, pumped through the mains—air that costs nothing but the pumping. The great question is which is to be the cheapest and the best. Gas and electric lighting companies may or may not have to go into liquidation—in any case, the honest citizen may hope at last to come into his own at no distant day.

I first noticed the "fountains" of which the suburbanite and the farmer equally with the dweller in cities may enjoy gas lighting all over his house. These gas fountains—using the word in the French sense—are long, narrow metal boxes, standing upright, of solid construction, to hold compressed illuminating gas, that by means of rubber tubes is led to incandescent burners by way of movable lamps like those that stand on center tables in America. This is the story of the "fountains"; but simple as it is, how is it that no one thought of it before? The gas boxes, sold to the consumer

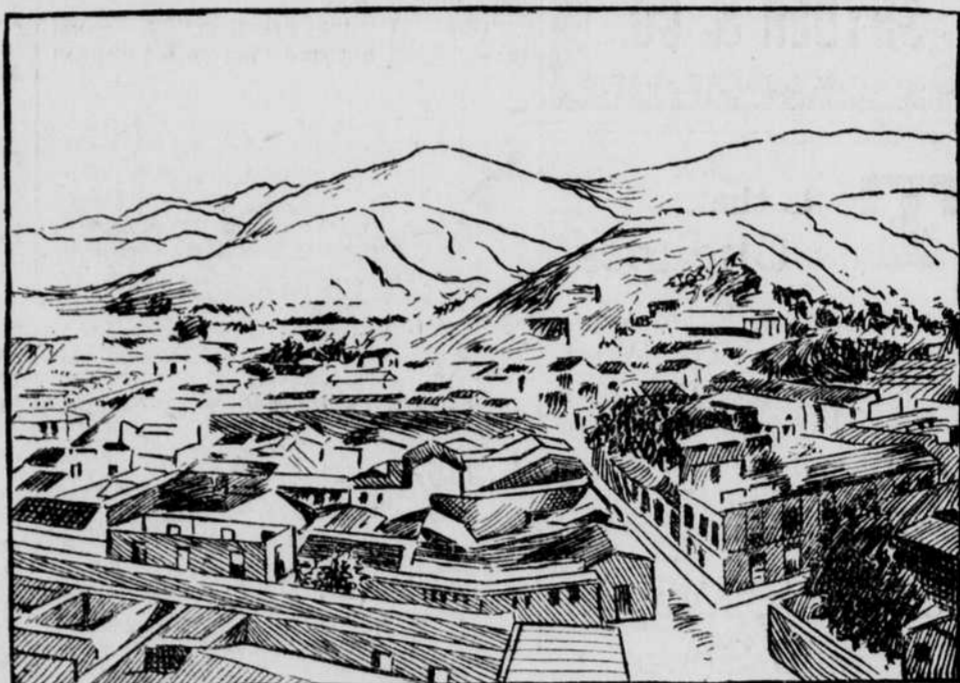


of Nations. The powerful new American petroleum lamps on the Quai des Tuileries show that old-fashioned "coal oil" is still to be heard from. In the exhibition grounds and on the Paris boulevard the alcohol lamps with incandescent gas burners compete with the electric light. More curious still and full of a vague promise are the mysterious psychological and luminous metallic lamps. Finally, the scientists and capitalists of Paris are

this canned-gas company at the exhibition, but they are now doing business on the Rue Auber, beside the Grand Opera, and are beginning to extend their business all over Europe. Asia and America, writes our correspondent. It is in the full tourist quarter, and I fancy there have been few Americans in Paris this summer who have not stood in admiration before the simple-looking device displayed in those show windows by

at \$5 each, require only to be taken home and set up on shelves. Three form the regulation "battery" for a moderate-sized house, lighting the three rooms which the French light brilliantly, the dining room, the ante-chamber and the kitchen. You will not often find gas-burners in French bedrooms, candles being considered the correct thing. The company asserts there is no other installation of gas that can be made so cheaply.

The Earthquake at Caracas.



THE CITY OF CARACAS.

Caracas, Venezuela, was again visited by a severe earthquake last week. Fifteen persons were killed and many others injured. Great damage was done to buildings, including the Pantheon and the churches. The United States legation was badly damaged, but all the occupants escaped unhurt. President Castro, who leaped from a balcony on the second floor of the government house, had one leg broken. Mr. William Henry Doveton Haggard had a narrow escape, the second floor of the British legation having fallen upon him and buried him in the debris. Reports from the interior show that the effects of the earthquake were widespread. The disturbances were felt as far as the region of the Andes. There were many wonderful escapes.

Caracas has twice been shaken by earthquakes in recent years. In the middle of November, 1896, a severe disturbance occurred at midnight. There were two distinct shocks. There was a panic in the city and most of the inhabitants fled to the open places. There was little damage done, however, and no loss of life.

The city of Caracas, which has frequently suffered from earthquakes, was visited last July by a series of seismic disturbances, which did great damage to property. There were seven terrific shocks in succession, and the residents of the city were terror-stricken. President Castro and his family slept for several nights under tents in the Plaza Bolivar, and all the churches and theaters were kept closed for a week.

London's Saturnalia.

The scenes enacted in London's streets upon the occasion of the arrival of the City Imperial Volunteers "home from the wars" were a disgrace to the largest city in the world and the one which has claimed to be best protected, says the Chicago Tribune. Many social reformers have pointed to the London police as an organization which can maintain order without the use of physical force, and have held it up as an example to American policemen who are in the habit of using their clubs as persuaders. Perhaps the shameful and disgusting scenes on Monday night would have been prevented had the London police used their clubs and used them vigorously. So far as the reception of the returning troops was of a patriotic character it assumed extraordinary dimensions only because they were London soldiers. They had not particularly

distinguished themselves as the Irish, Scotch and English Tommy Atkins did, nor had they made a record comparable with the Canadian or Australian contingents.

76,295,220.

The people of the United States have stood up and been counted, and there are just 76,295,220 of the sovereigns. With the possible exception of the Bryanites and anti-imperialists, who are opposed to expansion of any kind, Americans will plume themselves upon their substantial increase, and will be justified in doing so, for in ten years they have gained 13,225,464, or nearly 21 per cent. During the century now closing they have increased from 5,308,483 to 76,295,220, and the gain in the last decade is larger than that of any previous decade. To the total the forty-five states contribute 74,627,907 and the seven territories, etc., 1,667,313.

Prince Christian Victor.

A dispatch from Pretoria announces the death from enteric fever of Prince Christian Victor of Schleswig-Holstein, eldest son of the Princess Helene of England and a grandson of Queen Victoria. He was born in 1867, and was a major in the King's Royal rifles. He joined the King's Royal rifles twelve years ago, and saw a great deal of war service. He took part in the Ashanti expedition, which brought heavy sorrow to the queen Prince Christian through the death of her son-in-law, Prince Henry of Battenberg, and was promoted brevet-major in recognition of his services. He was at Omdurman with the sirdar. Latterly he served with his regiment in Ireland. He was 35 years of age.



The emperor of Austria always used to send the late king of Italy annually a present of 10,000 picked Havana cigars.