

# Current Topics

**Count Zeppelin, the Aeronaut.**  
 Count Zeppelin, the inventor of the great flying machine that made two record-breaking trips across Lake Constance in July and October of this year, though a general in the German army, is no stranger to the United States, having served in the civil war, when he made his first balloon ascent. He also fought in the Franco-German war, where he distinguished himself by his balloon reconnoissances.



**MORE RECENTLY** he has been attached to the staff of the king of Wurtemberg. It is said that he has actually expended nearly \$400,000 on aerial experiments, but in his latest venture he was backed by a syndicate with a capital of \$250,000. He is seventy years old and has been engaged in ballooning since he was forty.

**Actress Stirrs All London.**  
 Since Mrs. Patrick Campbell began to produce "Mr. and Mrs. Daventry," at the Royal theatre, London, last week the dramatic columns of the press are filled not only with comments on the play, but on the personality of the actress. A composite opinion is somewhat on this order: Mrs. Campbell is an actress of eminent talent; she has no business to stoop to plays of the Oscar Wilde variety; Mrs. Campbell's dramatic abilities, however, would help to purify society if utilized to infuse a loathing for scenes of depravity so common in the English "haut monde."



**MRS. PATRICK CAMPBELL.**  
 fervent admirers and more fervent detractors than any other actress in England. For this reason, no matter what piece she may produce, it will be praised by the former and condemned by the latter. And her friends are so many that even "Mr. and Mrs. Daventry" is tolerated.

In private life no one could ever conceive that Mrs. Campbell's taste runs in anything but the course of strict ethical purity. At home in Kensington square she receives in an informal way many of the distinguished lights of London.

**A Chinese War Junk.**  
 One of the obsolete forms of sea craft to which the Chinese still cling with affection is the war junk, shown in the illustration. It is picturesque but clumsy, with flat bottom, square bow and high-pooped stern, in shape something like the caravels Columbus used when he made his first voyage to America. The sails are usually made of matting, while the rudder is large and is lowered to a level with the keel when in deep water.



These junks are roomy and comfortable and not by any means so clumsy as they appear, for in the hands of the Chinese pirates, they once scourged the coast of China, they were often effective in aiding them to accomplish their nefarious designs.

**Work of Professor Wood.**  
 When Professor R. W. Wood of the physc department of the University of Wisconsin visited England, in February, he gathered other honors and the silver medal of the Society of Arts of London in recognition of his work on the diffraction process of color photography. Professor Wood was invited to speak before the Royal society, one of the oldest and most scientific societies in the world; the Royal Photographic society and the London Camera club. For his address before the Physical society that body made him a fellow. At the solar eclipse last May Professor Wood was a member of the Johns Hopkins party of the government expedition stationed at Pinchurst. He is at present engaged on work bearing on the theory of the solar corona. Aside from being a fellow of the London Physical society Professor Wood is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, member of the American Physical society and the American Astrophysical society.

**Woman's Work in Porto Rico.**  
 The first woman superintendent of schools in Porto Rico, Mrs. Ruth Shaffner Etnier, has returned to her home at Newville, Pa., after eighteen months' labor in our recently acquired island. In addition to her work as an educator Mrs. Etnier acted as an organizer of temperance societies, and has succeeded even beyond her anticipations in awakening an interest among the natives in the cause of total abstinence. In connection with the latter movement she spoke freely the other day.



**MRS. ETNIER.**  
 "One of the most gratifying things I noted on the island," she said, "was that there was no intemperance. I never saw a Spaniard or a native drunk. There were no saloons until war begun, and three have been closed since the army's withdrawal.

**Rev. H. W. Jones,** chaplain of the United States trainingship Monongahela, lying at Old Point, has just been honored with the degree of doctor of divinity from Wake college, North Carolina. The degree was conferred on him because he was chaplain of the only southern named ship which took part in the Santiago engagement, the battleship Texas.

**The Late Capt. Dewey.**  
 Capt. Edward Dewey, elder brother of the admiral, died the other day.



**CAPT. EDWARD DEWEY.**  
 at his home in Montpelier. He was 71 years of age. Capt. Dewey saw service during the civil war, having been commissioned first lieutenant and quartermaster of the Eighth Vermont volunteers, Jan. 12, 1864. His regiment took part in the chase after Early in that year and was with Sheridan in the Shenandoah valley in the fall of 1864. Besides Admiral Dewey he leaves another brother, Charles Dewey, of Montpelier, and a sister, Mrs. Mary P. Greeley.

**Women's Enlarged Sphere.**  
 Women earn their daily bread in almost every branch of human industry. Women make or help to make coffins, bricks, ties, sewer pipes, tools, boxes, barrels, furniture. They are in all the professions; they are stockholders and partners in various kinds of business, and as to the more conventional occupations of women they are galore. In the more unusual way we have had a woman anthropologist, a woman forester, woman who mine and women who deal in stocks. One woman spent fifty years making a bead house and lately was found dead with her unfinished work before her.

## In the Public Eye

**Guided Forces Into Peking.**  
 Rev. Frederick Brown, under whose guidance the allied forces marched from Tientsin to Peking, is a missionary and the presiding elder of the Tientsin district of the Methodist Episcopal mission in North China. Mr. Brown has labored in the land of the Manchus and Tartars for upward of seventeen years. In that time he has traveled much between Tientsin and Peking and, thoroughly familiar as he was with every foot of the way, no better guide for the forces in their march of relief could have been found. When the outbreak of the Boxers occurred in Peking Mr. Brown was the last foreigner to get safely away. Later he went to Che Foo, from which point he sent nearly all of the unofficial cable dispatches that came to America describing the situation in China. He stood upon the wall of Peking during the first engagement, and

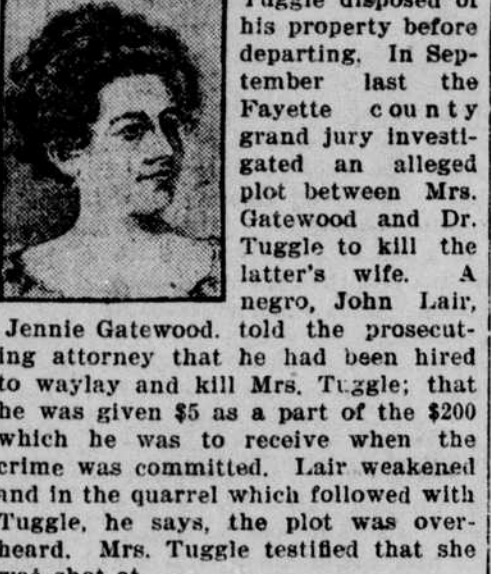


**REV. FREDERICK BROWN.**  
 was within a few feet of Capt. Reilly when that brave officer was killed. He refused all compensation for his services.

**Slatin Pasha,** who was believed to have bidden a final adieu to Egypt, is on his way back to the Soudan, where he will be governor of Khartoum under Sir Reginald Wingate, the new sirdar. He had, as he thought, settled down for good in Vienna, but now bears out the ancient Egyptian belief that he who once drinks of the Nile will long to repeat the draught.

### A Domestic Tragedy.

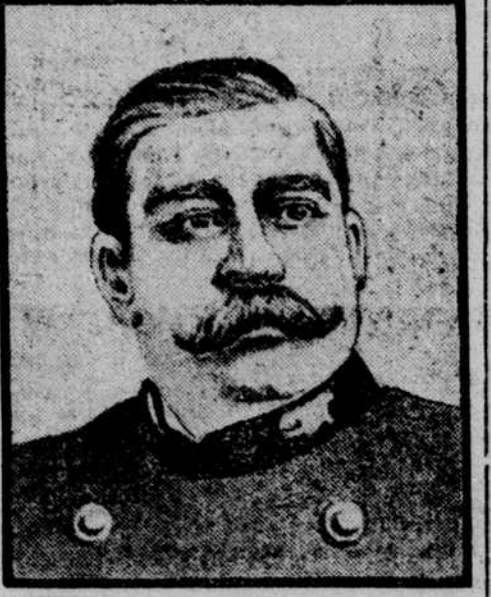
The disappearance of Mrs. Jennie L. Gatewood and Dr. T. W. Tuggle of Lexington, Ky., marks the close of another scene in a domestic tragedy that has been the topic of conversation in that section of Kentucky for many months. It is believed the couple has gone to New York.



**Jennie Gatewood,** told the prosecuting attorney that he had been hired to waylay and kill Mrs. Tuggle; that he was given \$5 as a part of the \$200 which he was to receive when the crime was committed. Lair weakened and in the quarrel which followed with Tuggle, he says, the plot was overheard. Mrs. Tuggle testified that she was shot at.

The matter was compromised by Tuggle allowing his wife to apply for divorce without contest. Mrs. Gatewood disposed of her property recently, and the day after her departure Tuggle also disappeared. He comes of a good family in Columbus, Ga.

### New York's Police Chief.



English papers say that the report that Sir Redvers Buller has been offered and has refused a peerage should be accepted with great caution. In the first place, no honors will be granted to the leaders in the Boer war until next year, and, moreover, it is said that Sir Redvers will refuse nothing that may be offered to him. That his name will be included in the list is considered to be practically certain.

# THE WORLD'S DOINGS.

## Cranberry Picking.



The cranberry crop in central Wisconsin has been harvested, milled, barreled and is rapidly being shipped to market. Very few people have much of an idea of how cranberries grow or what the vines look like; whether they resemble gooseberry bushes or tomato vines. The cranberry is a very modest little grower and the vines seldom reach a height of over eight inches, and a patch that is well covered with berries might be passed over by a casual observer without noticing the fruit at all.

One class of people who engage largely in this occupation is the native Indian, and they often constitute one-fifth of those working on the marsh. The Indians travel for miles to reach the cranberry marshes, bringing the whole family in a rattletrap wagon pulled by a team of horses that one would think had outlived their usefulness years before. When they reach the neighborhood of the marsh their tent is pitched, generally in the brushiest, meanest place possible to find, and they settle down to house-keeping with all the contentment born of a life in the woods. These Indians are generally pretty intelligent people and the men are usually able to carry on a conversation in broken English. The women, however, do not seem to understand much English and avoid the white people as much as possible. The Indians are the last to get to work in the morning and the first to quit at night, and they draw their salary every evening on their way from the marsh.

## Hart on Boxer Rising.

The Fortnightly Review contains an article on the Boxer uprising by Sir Robert Hart, who is of all men the most competent to discuss the Chinese situation. He declares that the rebellion was essentially a national uprising that had for its object the checking of foreign influence in the empire, and it was based upon the mature conviction that a system of volunteer defense would succeed in bringing this about. The foreign ministers had been warned again and again, but none of the European officials realized the magnitude of the movement. The most interesting feature of the article is Sir Robert's prediction that the Chinese will rise again. The national spirit will, in his opinion, continue to increase, and before 100 years at the most the "yellow peril" must be faced by Europeans. When that time comes the Chinese will be well drilled and well armed, for that is the lesson that has been taught the Celestials by their failure. He then argues against further European interference in the affairs of the empire and the pressing of demands for reparation, although in fact the facts as stated by him lead irresistibly to the judgment that European control would be the only way in which to stave off the threatened uprising, for the thorough policing of the empire would serve to prevent another such rising without due warning of its imminence, and such warning would enable the taking of effective measures and would prevent a repetition of the suspense through which the civilized world passed while the legations were under siege.

Mrs. Baden-Powell, the mother of the hero of Mafeking, is an astronomer, and has translated into English several foreign books on astronomy.

## Bavaria's Hall of Fame.



American is not entitled to claim originality in her purpose to erect a hall of fame at the University of New York. Bavaria originated the idea long ago and a hall of fame exists in that city today. It is known as "Die Ruhmeshalle," and overlooks the newer part of the city and the Theresienwiese. The hall was begun in 1843 under the supervision of the architect Klenz and was completed ten years later. It is in the form of a colonnade, seventy meters long and thirty-two meters wide, and has two projecting wings which partly inclose the statue of Bavaria. This is a gigantic iron figure, 110 feet high, weighing 64,177 kilograms, designed by Schwanthaler. Along the front colonnade of the Ruhmeshalle there are eighty busts of famous Bavarians. These are exposed to the air, but the Doric columns are so arranged that they protect the busts in a measure.

## The Danger from China.

The real "yellow peril" will be present when the Chinese are awakened to the full knowledge of the resources of their empire and have their attention strongly directed to manufacturing. What the civilized world has most to fear is the arousing of China from her present lethargic condition to a realization of the possibilities within her reach. The Chinese are industrious and thrifty. They are willing to work and to work for small wages. They can easily be taught to do almost anything. They quickly become expert operatives in cotton factories and it would not be difficult to teach them to be skillful workmen in all kinds of manufacturing.

Seven miles is the greatest recorded height ever reached by a balloon.

## Pre-Eminence in Machinery.

The London Chronicle's correspondent who investigated machinery exhibits at the Paris exposition acknowledges that in the whole group of machine tools and minor mechanical appliances the United States is far in the lead. The chief advantage, he states, is the system of interchangeable parts, which has been so highly praised recently by other British observers, notably the correspondent of the London Times, who investigated rather fully American competition with England in engineering. The Chronicle's correspondent says that the superiority of technical education in the United States is one reason for American pre-eminence in engineering, and he also mentions a point overlooked by most writers, but which in fact is largely responsible for our progress. This is that "the accomplished operative mechanic is a person of consideration and importance" in the United States, which he is not in Great Britain. The lad of good family who has a taste for mechanics is sent to a great university in America, and there he receives a thorough technical training. It is, then, the democracy of the American people and the absence of the class distinction which have brought about and maintains American pre-eminence in manufacturing and mechanical industries.

A statue in memory of Rev. Adin Ballou, the reformer and writer, a gift of General W. F. Draper, lately ambassador to Italy, has been unveiled at Hopedale, Mass. The memorial occupies the site of the clergyman's home. The lot and the pedestal of the statue were purchased by popular subscription.

Governor Pingree of Michigan, speaking of his political life, has told the newspapers that they may erect his monument and write his epitaph. He took no part in the late campaign, as his health required quiet and careful nursing.

## Clearing Nile of Swamps.



One of the results of British occupation of Egypt has been the opening of communication between the White Nile and the Victoria Nile, which every year is interrupted by the "sudd" or floating islands of marsh which obstruct navigation in the Nile between Fashoda and Lado. Under the old regime many efforts were made at various times to remove the "sudd," and some of these attempts were temporarily successful, but the effect of the work was not lasting, and soon the channel filled again. Under the Dervish rule, nothing at all was done in this direction. But after the reconquest of the Soudan the Egyptian government took up the problem, and last winter began a fresh attempt to remove the "sudd."

These "sudd" marshes are probably the largest series of marshes in the world. Although the actual limits are not known, the total area is placed at not less than 12,000 square miles. The depression which they occupy once was a lake. Here grows the papyrus; the Um soof, by which name, meaning "Mother of Wool," the Arabs call a tall reed which is covered with prickly hairs; the ambatch, a tree-like shrub, which is lighter than cork, and many flowering creepers which twine themselves through the mass and add to the tangle.

Those who are obliged to work in these swamps suffer from depression of spirits. The heat, even in the winter, is intense, and the air is saturated with humidity. Malaria is ever present, and from April to October the rainfall is continuous. The only inhabitants are a few negroes who just manage to live by fishing. Mosquitoes are countless, and in the night their murmur is like the diapason of an organ. Sir Samuel Baker, the African explorer, calls this region "a heaven for mosquitoes and a damp hell for men."

## Endowed Theaters.

Robert Stodart, in the current independent, suggests a new field for philanthropy—the endowment of theaters. He starts with the proposition that "the way we play influences us quite as profoundly as does the way we work." He painstakingly refutes "the fallacy that the theater is merely a place of amusement." He laments the dramatic chaos consequent upon purely speculative management of our stage. He truly affirms that "the great bulk of the American people are morally sound, eager to learn, no more averse to listening 'up' than to reading 'up.' He correctly declares that "the aim of every civilized nation should be to have its theater truly represent its people." He concludes that "a wisely governed and well-trod stage would not appeal in vain, and that an endowed theater, conservatively managed, would pay."

General Hawley pays this tribute to the late Charles Dudley Warner: "He was completely a gentleman. He lived a religious life, but said little about it. He regularly attended his church, respecting and obeying its observance. I never heard from his lips an indelicate or coarse story or an unclean idea. He abhorred injustice, meanness and dishonesty. It is a cheerful spirit and a true wit and a sweet humor that we find in all his works."

## Mrs. Gladstone's Last Moments.

The dean of Lincoln says that Mrs. Gladstone's last moments were passed under the delusion that she was with her husband. She scolded the nurse because a carriage which she thought she had ordered for Mr. Gladstone was late, and then asked, as if of him, "Shall you be ready to start soon, darling?"