

# CURRENT TOPICS

A REMARKABLE surgical operation was performed recently in Doorpath, Germany. A young girl was wounded with a ball from a revolver and the surgeon, Dr. Manteuffel, found the heart had been cut open. The surgeon removed the bullet and sewed up the girl's heart, the beating of which had stopped two hours before the surgeon was summoned. It is said that the operation was successful in every way, that the girl will live, and the accomplishment is being very generally commented upon in the world's surgical circles.

AN EASTERN publication called Suggestion prints a communication from Nicholl Gigliotti, of Erie, Pa., in which the doctor claims that the sonnet "Opportunity," generally attributed to the late John Ingalls, was written by Dr. Gigliotti in Italian in 1887. Dr. Gigliotti says that he reprinted the poem in *La Giustizia*, published in Denver, and sent Ingalls a copy of it with a rhythmic translation made by him and revised for the English part by Martin Battle, a distinguished follower of the late Henry George. The second publication of the Italian original was in the *Mignon* of Naples June 12, 1888.

DR. GUISEPPE COLONI certifies to having published in the *Flora Mirabilis* of Turin Dr. Gigliotti's sonnet, "Il Fato," in 1887 or 1888, and adds that it was translated into Greek, into French by Mme. Sampson, into German by Kadon, and into English by C. Bourges Watson. A writer in the *Chicago Tribune*, referring to the Gigliotti claim, says: "Dr. Gigliotti has published three books of poems, but singularly enough the sonnet 'Il Fato' did not appear in any of them, for the reason, so he says, that he was 'not satisfied with its literary polish.' The admirers of Ingalls cannot understand why, if Dr. Gigliotti was not satisfied with its literary polish, he printed it in the *Denver paper* and sent a copy of it with a translation to Senator Ingalls. He does not explain in his letter whether or not he knew Ingalls previous to this, or why he singled him out as the recipient of his alleged poetic effusion."

THE Italian sonnet claimed by Dr. Gigliotti is as follows:

## IL FATO.

Arbitro io sono dell' uman destino,  
Fama, grandezza, amor mi son vassalli,  
Per campagne e citta folle cammino,  
Batto a ogni porta, e corro nuovi calli.

Se in letargo, ti desta. Se nel vino  
Le cure affoghi e ti son dolei i falli,  
T'alza a mi segni. Il fato son. Meschino  
Chi non viene con me. Gli do cavalli.

Gioie, grandezza, onor, donne e piacere.  
Tutto gli obbedira men che la morte.  
Vieni. Approfitta del mio buon volere.

Solo una volta io batto alle tue porte.  
Io non ti seguo—rispos' io—il pensiero  
Sol rende l' uomo avventurato e forte!

And here is his own rough English translation:

## THE FATE.

Master I am of human destinies;  
Fame, greatness, love are my servants.  
Cities and fields foolishly I walk;  
I knock at every door but once, and I run to new pathways.

If sleeping, wake. If feasting,  
You try to kill your troubles with wine and sin.  
Rise and follow me. I am the fate. Woe  
To whom does not follow me. I give him horses,  
Gold, fame, honor, women, and pleasure.  
He will conquer every foe, save death.  
Rise; hang to the opportunity which I offer to you.

I am revengeful. I knock unbidden but once at every door.  
I stay here. "Leave me alone," I answered;  
"thought,  
And thought alone, makes every man happy and strong."

THE Ingalls sonnet, the publication of which added considerably to his fame, is as follows:  
Master of Human destinies am I!  
Fame, love, and fortune on my footsteps wait.

Cities and fields I walk; I penetrate  
Deserts and fields remote, and, passing by  
Hovel and mart and palace, soon or late,  
I knock unbidden once at every gate.  
If sleeping, wake; if feasting, rise before  
I turn away. It is the hour of fate,  
And they who follow me reach every state  
Mortals desire, and conquer every foe  
Save death; but those who doubt or hesitate,  
Condemned to failure, penury or woe,  
Seek me in vain and uselessly implore—  
I answer not, and I return no more.

THE Western Union Telegraph company has ordered the discontinuance of the operating and distributing of its wires throughout the United States for dispatching race reports. Referring to this order, the *New York Tribune* says: "This action was understood to have followed a consultation of Morris K. Jesup, Jacob H. Schiff, Senator Depew and other Western Union directors with George J. Gould, whose views were in harmony with theirs. As a result of this order poolrooms throughout the city were practically without service. They declared, however, that they would be running as usual today. The Central Federated Union committee appointed to take steps to have the Western Union charter annulled declared it would demand the stopping of betting at the race tracks or the removal of the state racing commission, of which August Belmont is chairman. A representative of the *New York Telephone* company told Police Commissioner McAdoo that the company would refuse to allow its wires to be used for poolroom service."

IN THE hearing of the anthracite coal case, May 24, President Baer of the Reading company said that reduction in the freight tariff would not necessarily mean lower prices to the consumer if the operators think they should get more for their products. The allegation that the carriers purposely tied up the coal traffic in winter or failed to furnish cars to collieries has no foundation in fact, said Mr. Baer. There was freight congestion last winter to a degree not known in many years and it was due to physical conditions. He continued: "The Lord, though it may shock you, was responsible for that. It was one of the things over which we had no control."

WILLIAM BURNS of Rockaway, N. J., recently displayed great heroism and immediately found his reward in a peculiar way. The *New York World* says that as Mr. Burns was crossing the canal bridge, he heard screams of children. Five little ones were running wildly to and fro along the bank of the canal, shouting for help. The figure of a little boy was floundering in the water. The little body sank, and the children ran frightened in all directions. Burns threw off his coat and dived to the spot where he had seen the boy sink. When he arose to the surface the body had been carried to the middle of the stream by the current. He swam hard and brought himself to the spot as the body sank a second time. As it rose again Burns seized it. Then almost exhausted himself, and weighed down by his clothes, he made for the bank, and finally reached it after a struggle. The boy was unconscious. He turned the body over and looked at the face for the first time. "My God, it's my son," he cried. It was five-year-old Willie, who tried to sail his toy boat while waiting for his father, and fell into the water. In the hurry of saving the boy the father had not recognized his son. He put his hand hurriedly to the boy's heart and found it was still beating. Then he rolled the body back and forth on the grass, until he saw signs of returning consciousness. Artificial respiration, applied vigorously by the frantic father, restored the little boy fully to consciousness, and half an hour later Willie was resting in bed, not much the worse for his narrow escape. The children spread the news of the rescue through the neighborhood, and neighbors who went to Burns to congratulate him were doubly joyful when they heard the rescued boy was his own son.

THE Standard Oil company on May 16 declared a dividend for the spring quarter of \$5 a share, which is \$1 more than that declared

for the same quarter last year. This makes \$24 a share for the six months. The dividend for the last quarter was \$16 a share. The company will have to declare \$20 during the next six months to bring the dividend up to the amount paid last year, which was \$44. In 1902 the dividend was \$45, in 1901 \$48, and in 1900 \$48. The total dividend declared May 16 will amount to \$8,000,000. Of this sum John D. Rockefeller receives \$3,200,000.

A GROUP of capitalists of Philadelphia, Spokane and Seattle has outwitted the prospectors of British Columbia. According to a Vancouver dispatch to the *New York World* these capitalists have obtained from the provincial government for \$20,000 licenses in the rich coal and oil lands of southeastern Kootenay, reputed to be worth at the lowest estimate \$50,000,000. For these lands the Canadian Pacific railroad last year made a determined effort to get a title, but the methods it adopted provoked such public indignation that a parliamentary investigation was held by a select committee and a subsequent act was passed in the legislature making null and void any grant which might have been made by order in council to the railroad. But what the Canadian Pacific with all its influence could not do the group of Americans has quietly accomplished. The names of those at the back of the deal are not yet known, but it is declared that Mr. Farrell, of the Great Northern road, had much to do with the manipulations. Keeping closely in touch with departmental heads at Victoria, the Americans learned that it was the intention of the administration to throw the coal and oil lands open for prospectors' location. The Seattle engineers of the American syndicate quietly went through the mining regions of British Columbia buying for a small fee the right to use miners' names on application forms. These applications were quietly forwarded to Victoria, and in due time the whole fifteen miles of coal and oil lands was staked out and applied for. The provincial prospectors are bitter, and charge the government with having played into the hands of the Americans.

A LONDON cablegram to the *New York World* says that the czar of Russia has removed the ban of exile he placed thirteen years ago on his uncle, Grand Duke Michael Michaelovitch, for hismorganatic marriage of Countess von Merenburg, who was considered the most beautiful woman in Europe. King Edward and Emperor William, in recent years, have vainly pleaded with the czar for Grand Duke Michael's pardon.

IT WILL be remembered that J. P. Morgan & Co. were chosen as fiscal agents for the Panama Canal company. Captain Nathan Appleton of New York, who in 1879 was the first representative from the United States to Panama and who subsequently became intimately associated with De Lesseps, of the Isthmian Canal company, asserts that J. P. Morgan & Co. made \$800,000 out of the old Panama Canal company. Speaking to a reporter for the *New York World*, Captain Appleton said: "It certainly does seem the irony of fate that those who reaped such a fine harvest out of my old friend De Lesseps' concern should again have an opportunity of feathering their nests. I naturally take it that J. P. Morgan & Co. have not accepted the position of fiscal agents from merely patriotic motives. It seems to me that it would have been in good taste for the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., before entering into any negotiations with France for the payment of the \$40,000,000, to refund the sum of \$300,000 they received when the firm was Drexel, Morgan & Co. Half of this sum came from the transfer of the stock of the Panama Railroad company to the Canal company, and the other half from the payment of \$50,000 a year for eight years to the firm for the use of its name as American agents of the company. From the time of the inception of the old Panama Canal company to the year 1889, the time of its first collapse—even the lottery bond could not prevent a second collapse in 1894—J. P. Morgan & Co. received through its Paris house, Drexel, Harjes & Co., this bonus of \$50,000 a year. I am sure it is not on record that the house ever