

AFRICA, ENGLAND, GERMANY.

Latter Wants the Forest in the Basin of the Upper Congo.

The object of Germany at the present moment is to connect her eastern and southwestern African possessions, says the Quarterly Review. To do this she desires to possess the forest in the basin of the Upper Congo—a region which is rich in copper. If she could obtain this territory from the Congo state and a narrow strip of land from Portugal she would realize her aim, and if she gets possession of the forests on the Lualaba and the Katsanga copper mines her colonies may become to her a great source of wealth. England should definitely make up her mind as to the attitude she will assume toward this policy. If she opposes it Germany will become a persistent enemy. On the other hand, if she supports it Germany should agree not in any way to interfere with England south of the Zambesi and support her heartily in Egypt. The increase of German prosperity at home is also an advantage to us. As Germany becomes richer she will become a better customer and less jealous of the political position. The wages of German artisans must go up and consequently Germany will be less able to undersell us in the open markets of the world. We have now come to a state of things as regards the German empire when we must either come to terms with it or drift into a position which will certainly lead to danger. The Germans, if they are to maintain their possessions beyond the sea, must either be sure of the friendship and good will of England or else they will endeavor to break down her power on the ocean. Since the beginning of this year every corner of the empire has rung with the most violent denunciations of this country. The newspapers, with the almost solitary exception of the Weser Zeitung, have given expression to feelings of bitter hostility. Organs of opinion usually the most opposed have vied with each other in their violence of language. This ill feeling to Great Britain, as we have said, has not been a growth of recent times. It is now strengthened by a growing conviction that the position of England in the world is undeserved, artificial and cannot be maintained if it is seriously menaced. This view has been fostered by distinguished historians and men of letters, who exercise a powerful influence on the youth of the country, on the guides of public opinion, on writers in the principal periodicals and journals who indirectly shape the policy of the cheap newspaper, which is the gospel of the village inn.

Repeating Rifles.

The king of Denmark's "sort of new invented guns, which being but once charged will discharge many times, one after another," in 1657, would seem to have had rivals about the same period. Pepys twice refers to such. On July 3, 1662, when "at the Dolphin with the officers of the ordnance, after dinner was brought to Sir W. Compton a gun to discharge seven times, the best of all devices that ever I saw and very serviceable, and not a bawble, for it is much approved of, and many thereof made." And on March 4, 1663-4, he mentioned "a new fashion gun to shoot often, one after another."—Notes and Queries.

The Baseball Pitcher.

The famous base ball pitcher had walked the floor with the youngest of his family for an hour or so. "Mary," said he, "if the manager saw me now, I bet I'd get soaked with a fine." "Why?" asked the wife, sleepily. "I don't seem to have any control of the bawl at all. I don't."

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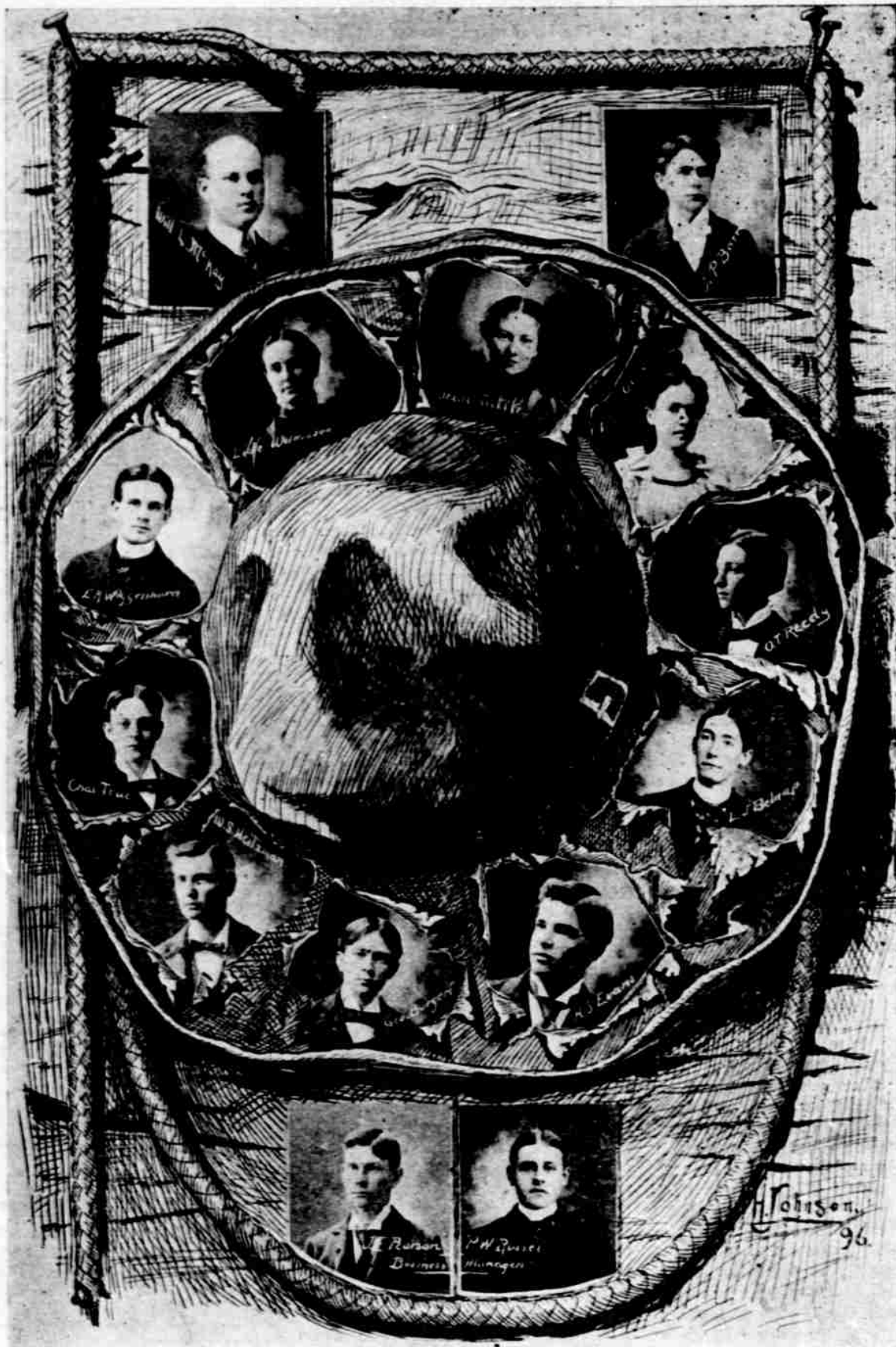
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Editors of The Sombrero.

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