

A FIGHTING NATION.

CAUSES OF THE FINE PHYSIQUE OF THE GERMANS.

The Men of the Empire—Past and Present.
(Continued from Oct. 8 Cor. of London Telegraph.)
In a leading article that recently appeared in your columns, it was justly observed that, despite the fierceness and aptitude in athletic sports characterizing the English people, Britons of the present generation cannot boast of greater size, width, weight and endurance than were attained by their forefathers. This statement, which I have no doubt is well founded, suggested to me an inquiry with respect to the actual state of physical standards in Prussia, as compared with their conditions half a century ago, shortly after the conclusion of the War of Emancipation, which left Germany impoverished and enfeebled, though victorious. The few trustworthy data I have been able to glean upon this subject may not be without interest for your readers. Nothing strikes a foreigner, especially if he be a military man, so forcibly upon entering Prussia, either from France or England, as the statures, physique, and bearing of the German soldiers. Compared with the dapper but under-sized legionnaires he has encountered in the last named countries, the Prussian soldier is not only a taller fellow than the French, but also a more robust, heavier, and stronger than either. On an average five Prussian linears weigh as much as six French linears. This fact was satisfactorily established during the late war, when the German soldiers in Germany enabled military ethnologists to ascertain with considerable accuracy the main differences in the physical materials of which the hostile armies were composed. The average stone man may be said to predominate throughout the Prussian army, putting the Guards corps out of the question; and in one or two of the provincial corps—as, for instance, the second and third Westphalian, the Silesian and Westphalian corps—unless I am much mistaken, there are often as many twelve-stone as ten-stone men. The infantry of the Guard and Guard Landwehr present a body of men averaging between forty and fifty thousand whose average height is five feet nine and a half inches, and weight eleven stone eight pounds. From six thousand to seven thousand of these range from five feet five inches to five feet six inches, and are also from ten stone to ten stone five pounds. All the Cavalry regiments are fifteen or sixteen stone, and in some of the Guard regiments, they are more than fifteen stone. The Prussian soldiers are, however, stout and strong. The Prussian soldier is, as a rule, a more robust fellow than the English, being in a more robust condition of body, and with a more robust physique. He is, as a rule, a more robust fellow than the English, being in a more robust condition of body, and with a more robust physique. He is, as a rule, a more robust fellow than the English, being in a more robust condition of body, and with a more robust physique.

THE MYSTERY OF LIFE.

STRANGE EXPERIMENTS IN SUSPENSION OF ANIMATION.

A Convicted Communist Restored to Life After Having Been Dead for Three Months—How Curious People May Go to Sleep and Wake Up in the Next Century.
(Correspondence of the New York World.)
PARIS, October 12.
While the Germans were marching from victory to victory over French territory, a German professor in the University of Weissenburg was conducting a series of researches upon muscular contraction, which have led to most unlooked for and important results. It has long been known that certain minute animals may be preserved for months, or even years, in a dry state as the insects pinned to the show-case of a museum, and finally recover their life on being moistened with water. The animals denominated tardigrades and rotifers are most conspicuous for the purpose of such experiments, and it was the rotifer which the German professor used. These creatures inhabit the moss in our forests and even that on the roofs of our houses, and are frequently procured by physiologists for the purpose of such experiments. They are placed in a solution of boric acid, and the temperature of boiling water, set aside in their crisp and dead state for an indefinite period, and when again moistened they move, breathe, feed, propagate their kind, as if no time had elapsed before desiccation overtook their manifestations of vitality. It has long been known that in the dry season of tropical countries reptiles remain taken in earth as dry as the bones, and after a certain number of years, and resume their activity when the rainy season has liberated them from their prison. The accounts often heard of living toads and other reptiles having been broken out of the solid rock in the lifeless masses of the tropics, and that they have their origin in facts of the nature of those above cited.

THE HORSE PLAGUE COMING.

THE DISEASE APPEARS AT WASHINGTON AND NORFOLK.

All the Street Cabs Stopped in New York—Mortality—Extraordinary Spread of the Malady in Every Direction. Let Charleston Look Out!
New York, October 31.
All the remaining horse cars in the city, which had until now kept up their trip, stopped to-day early to-night. The bracing weather of to-day seems slightly to abate the malady.
In Cleveland, Ohio, the disease is spreading. Several livery stables are closed, and the fire department and express companies' horses are becoming unfitted for service.
There is little change reported in Boston, but the disease has extended to Waterville and Eastport, Maine. In Poughkeepsie and other places on the Hudson River the disease is increasing.
The Plague in Washington.
WASHINGTON, October 31.
Two of this morning's papers relate the result of inquiries at the railroad, express and livery stables, and the conclusion reached is that forty or fifty horses have symptoms of the equine epidemic; while another morning paper, the reporter of which visited numerous stables, says that the veterinary surgeons are not attending any horses in the city suffering from the disease; and, furthermore, that they did not believe there is a case in town. There are horses, not an unusual number, suffering with colds, certainly not unusual at this season; but many owners, and those who have horses in care, express fear that their animals will be attacked by the disease, and are taking precautions accordingly.
Norfolk in a Bad Plight.
NORFOLK, Va., October 31.
The horse malady has appeared here and in Portsmouth, notwithstanding the vigorous measures of the city fathers to prevent its introduction by infected horses from other places. Two horses have died from the disease, and others are reported to be in a critical condition.
Passengers.
Per steamer Emma, from Georgetown, S. C. Mrs. Middleton, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. H. B. Riddle, Mrs. McCoy, Mrs. Markley, W. J. Massey, Rutledge Parker, M. Denay, H. D. Luba, J. A. Taylor, and 5 on deck.

THE LATEST OCEAN HORROR.

KEY WEST, October 31.

The following is the latest from the ill-fated steamship Missouri: When the boat of the survivors left the burning ship on Oct. 29, it was found that the boat was not the same as the one seen on the beach. The boat seen on the beach was a small boat, and it is not likely any of them escaped. No sails had been seen for two days previous to the firing. For forty minutes after the rescued boat left the ship the passengers on the vessel crowded on the deck. The passengers were at breakfast when the alarm was given. The boat was rescued by the schooner Spy. A vessel was sent to the burning ship, but returned and reported seeing nothing of boats or passengers. The sea was breaking heavily on the reefs. Seven females and seven children were on board, none of whom got to the boats.
The only expense incurred in this port by the little English steamer Anna, belonging to the Atlantic Mail Steamship Company, which brought to this port the survivors of the ill-fated steamer Missouri, was forced from her by the United States custom officers, who even charged her with tonnage dues for twelve months in advance. Every one else with whom the Anna had business worked willingly and gratuitously.

A GREAT RACE.

SAN FRANCISCO, October 30.

The race between Lucy and Occident, at Treat's Park Course, Alameda, this afternoon, attracted ten thousand people. The track was not in good condition—a portion was wet and heavy. The horses were in good trim, and excellent spirits. The race was for a purse of seventy-five hundred dollars, the best three in five to possess. The odds at the start were as follows: Lucy, 2.21 for forty dollars; Occident, 2.19 and 2.20 at seventeen dollars. A large amount of money was bet, but the race was principally in time pools. In the first heat Occident drew the pole. A good start was made. In the second scoring the horses were broken up and Occident led to the end. In the third heat Lucy was favored. At the start Lucy was in the lead, and passed the score, leaving Occident distanced with thirty feet.

OF FRODO BAGGINS.

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ERS OF ELECTION OF CHARLESTON COUNTY, FIRE-PROOF BUILDING, CHARLESTON, S. C., OCTOBER 26, 1872.—In accordance with Section 9 of Article 9 of the General Statutes of this State, providing for the election of Members of President and Vice-President of the United States, the undersigned Commissioners of Election, do hereby appoint, to do hereby appoint, the following persons as Managers of Election for the purpose of conducting the Election at the several Precincts hereinafter designated, to be held on the First Monday following the first Monday of November next, being the fifth day of the month of November, for the purpose of electing SEVEN (7) MEMBERS OF ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. All appointments as Managers heretofore made, and not contained in this notice, are hereby rescinded, and all Polling Places heretofore established and enumerated herein are abolished. Elections will be held only at the places and by the persons herein mentioned. All Managers hereby appointed and not previously qualified, are requested to qualify immediately by taking and subscribing to the oath of office prescribed by Section 90 of Article II of the Constitution, and file said oaths in the office of the Clerk of the Court.
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A MYSTERIOUS SUICIDE.

A Journeyman Tailor Commits Suicide at the Victoria Hotel by Hanging Himself—Full Particulars of the Affair.

Last Tuesday morning a well-dressed man, named John Vanhulst, arrived in this city from New York, on board the steamer Manhattan. He went to the Victoria Hotel, at the corner of King and Princess streets, about breakfast time, and applied for lodgings. In the course of a conversation with the proprietor of the hotel, Mr. Opdebeck, he stated that he was a native of Brussels, Belgium, but had been living for some time in New York City, where he had left his wife and four children. He was a tailor by trade, and had come to Charleston for the purpose of obtaining work, and he assigned as his reason for leaving New York that the winter climate there was too severe. He said that as soon as he succeeded in getting a permanent situation he would send for his wife and children. He asked Mr. Opdebeck for the address of the principal tailoring establishments in the city, and that gentleman in compliance gave him the address of several. He at the same time showed Mr. Opdebeck a letter of introduction to Mr. John Rughelmer, a well known merchant tailor of this city, from H. Weber, No. 52 First avenue, New York. After breakfast he left the hotel, and was absent some hours. In the afternoon he returned, and said that he had got a place in one of the first tailoring establishments in the city. He remained at the hotel in the afternoon, and nothing unusual was observed in his conduct or appearance by any one. On Wednesday morning he left the hotel for work about seven o'clock. The other employees of the establishment in which he had been engaged said that he arrived there about quarter-past seven o'clock, and applied himself steadily to work until twenty minutes past twelve, when he asked the hour, and got up to leave. He had all the while appeared cheerful, and was moderately talkative. On getting up to leave, he remarked that he felt giddy, and staggered a little, but he attributed it to the effects of the motion of the boat during his recent voyage. Mr. Opdebeck states that Vanhulst arrived at the hotel about ten minutes before one o'clock, and said that he was feeling unwell, the motion of the steamer being still in his head. Mr. Opdebeck asked him if he would not eat something. He refused, but asked for a drink of brandy. After he had taken the drink, he said that he would go and lie down. At supper time Mr. Opdebeck sent a servant up to Vanhulst's room, which was on the third floor. In a short time the servant returned and said that the room door was locked, and the key had been removed from the hole. There being nothing suspicious in that fact, Mr. Opdebeck concluded that his lodger had gone out, and therefore gave the matter no further thought. At breakfast time yesterday morning, the lodger did not make his appearance at the table, and the proprietor again sent the same servant to the room on the third floor. The servant returned and said that the door was in the same condition as on the evening previous, and that the room was apparently unoccupied. Mr. Opdebeck then went up and unlocked the door with a pass key which he keeps. The door was, however, bolted on the inside, and could not be pushed open. In attempting to force it, Mr. Opdebeck discovered through an aperture thus made the figure of the man apparently standing directly before the crack with the eyes fixed upon him. A second glance assured him, however, that the body was suspended to a post at the foot of the bed by means of a rope attached to the neck. Mr. Opdebeck made no further attempt to open the door, but repaired immediately to the detective office and informed Lieutenant Heldt of the circumstances. The lieutenant with several of his officers lost no time in going to the hotel. The door being forced, the body was found suspended as above described, with the feet touching the floor and the knees bent out in front. Life was perfectly extinct, and the rigidity of the body showed that it had been so for many hours. The post to which the body was suspended was a strip of ordinary yellow pine two inches wide by three-quarters of an inch thick, and constituted a portion of the mosquito net frame. The whole frame was bent by the weight of the body partially over the foot of the bed.

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