LI HUNG CHANG'S CAREER.

WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR CHINA IN THE LAST TWENTY YEARS.

PROGRESS HAS BEEN THE KEY-NOTE OF HIS LIFE.

His Success in Introducing Into the Empire Western Arts and Sciences

The dismissal not many weeks ago of Li Hung Chang and the appointment of another to the chief command of all the Chinese forces means the total eclipse of the man who during the last twenty years has been responsible for all the progressive movements of the empire, appropriating the Western arts and sciences, and in spreading its international relations. Before the beginning of the present war, Li, says Appleton's, was Viceroy of the metropolitan Province of Chihli, in which Pekin is situated, Senior Grand Secretary of State, High Imperial Commissioner of Foreign Affairs, Director General of the Coast Defenses of the North and Imperial Navy, Northern Superintendent of Trade, and Commander in Chief of the Army of North China. These offices were not merely nominal, but their various interests were watched over with the utmost vigilance by their executive, who is a man seventy-five years of age.

Li, according to The Pekin Gazette, was born at Seu-Chew in the Hofei district in the year 1819, of pure Chinese blood, and has always been identified with the native party. He was among the first in the three successive literary examinations, and in 1847 was enrolled in the Hanlin, or imperial academy, the highest degree in the empire. He was an official in the imperial printing office when the Tai-P'ing rebellion broke out in 1851—a convulsion that almost divided the empire, cost 20,000,000 lives and 3,000,000,000 taels, and took thirteen years to suppress. In this trouble Li became prominent. First called into the field to act on the staff of the generalissimo, he was in the last years of the war the Governor of Kiang Su, which, with Che-Kiang, constituted the most important field of operations.

Li's appreciation of Western military skill was shown in the part he took in the organization and use of the "Ever Victorious Force" a Chinese legion, armed, drilled, and disciplined according to European fashion, led first by the American, Ward, who recruited the corps, and afterward by the famous Gordon. Under both these leaders it fought with great valor and success, and was a prime factor in the overthrow of the Tai-Pings. The last campaign, which resulted in the capture of Nankin, the rebel capital, was conducted by Li in person. He had developed as much genius in the field as he had shown in council.

From the very close of the Tai-Ping war, Li Hung Chang began that persistent labor for the adoption of the arts and sciences of the West which has furnished the keynote of his life. He at once began to memorialize the throne for the creation of an army and navy upon the European model. He found a hearty supporter in Prince Kung, but an uncompromising opponent in the senior Empress Dowager, as also in the Board of Censors, who were saturated with the ancient Chinese traditions.

In 1870 Li was promoted to the Viceroyalty of Chihli, a province of 20,000,000 inhabitants, and made Senior Grand Secretary of State, which gave him direct supervision of international questions. The eyes of foreign powers had now begun to turn to him as best fitted to inspire the foreign and domestic policy of China, so far as one man could move the machinery of an enormously cumbersome system. It was by Li's authority that thirty Chinese boys were sent for education, in 1872, to the United States, and that the Tung-Wan-Kwan College was established at Pekin, and Dr. M. H. P. Martin, with the help of Prince Kung. The nucleus of this as a training school for interpreters already existed. It was now made a college for the West, under an able faculty.

Li availed himself of the Russian war scare of 1880 to give his plans a great impetus. He was the authoritative organizer of the peace party, and it was with difficulty that he prevented China from rushing into a disastrous war. His argument was not merely the fine army and navy were not fitted to meet the forces of a Western power, but that the internal constitution of an empire extending over an immense area made the transmission of intelligence tedious and difficult. The telegraph was advocated as a factor of war power, and in 1880 authorization was given, and the work was pressed with extraordinary vigor. The system now has a network of more than 10,000 miles. With his assistance for the telegraph, Li began to work for railroads in the empire, but the opposition from all classes was overwhelming. A short line had been built by foreign capital in 1876 from Shanghai to Woo-Sung, but this was bought and dismantled the next year by the Government. Hopefully began a proposed line among the hills of fields, and Prince Kung quickly acceded to his views. The Viceroy instigated various memorials to the throne, which were followed by others from himself.

While following up this agitation, Li was active in remodeling the army and navy in establishing arsenals and dockyards, military and naval colleges, and in importing experts in the various scientific professions as instructors and leaders in the new movement. As administrator of foreign affairs his constant policy was peace, even at the price of concession, so that the empire should have no break in her course of internal development. The various subsequent wars with Russia, Japan, and France were settled without resort to arms, except in the case of the Formosa war with France in 1884. This nominally ended with a victory for the French, but Li's crafty diplomacy left the victors with scarcely a shred of honor or advantage.

The Army of North China began to be armed with Remington breech-loaders in 1876. At the outbreak of the present war there were 150,000 men equipped with the most modern weapons and officered by Germans or by Chinese trained in the military colleges, of which there are three at Tien-Tsin, Canton, and Shanhai. In 1875 Li, as administrator of the navy, bought four gunboats, which had just been built in Dublin for the Irish navy, but had been rejected as not up to the standard in speed. From that beginning the Viceroy built up a navy which, before the battle of Yalu last September, was supposed to contain some of the most effective fighting ships in the world.

It was not until 1885 that an active beginning was made in railroad building. A small road, which had been operative as a tramway from the Kai-Ping coal mines to the water, was equipped with steam, and it was so successful that it was extended. Other lines have been projected and partly completed. Two large and well-equipped steel plants have been established at Tangkow, on the Yangtsze, and Siemens-Martin outlasts it has completely won over to his position as regards the extension of the railroads the chief officials of the empire. The policy has been to build slowly and with Chinese capital, in order to avoid the incubus of a foreign debt. Joint stock companies have been formed under the Viceroy's encouragement for various enterprises, such as silk, cotton, glass and iron manufactures, and Chinese have had begun to learn and follow the methods of Western finance, as applied to industry.

All this awakening has been mainly the work of Li Hung Chang. He opposed the war with Japan, feeling that it would interrupt and embarrass his plans for the empire's enlightenment, and it is said that he has been awkward in its support, which no doubt accounts for the frequent rumors of indemnities levied upon him by the Emperor, as well as for his present reported dismissal from the command of the Chinese forces.—N. Y. Commercial.

A LARGE MELON ACREAGE.

What Was Found out About the Bug That Is Eating the Vines.

Mr. F. B. Papy, the division freight agent of the Plant system, has received some information from Mr. J. L. Hand of Pelham with regard to the investigations there made by Mr. D. W. Coquillet of the division of entomology, Department of Agriculture, with regard to the new pest that has been attacking the young watermelon vines in that section.

Mr. Coquillet found the worm which was supposed to have been eating the root of the plant was a white worm, with a hard head. It is known to entomologists as the wire worm, but it usually feeds on weeds, and does not generally attack watermelon plants. Mr. Coquillet says that this bug cannot cause any material destruction to the plants, but he finds that a great many of them are dying out from a sort of blight, and no apparent cause of the disease can be found. He says this is a matter for investigation by the department or division of vegetable pathology, which also comes under the Agricultural Department. Fifty to one hundred acres of watermelon plants were destroyed by this blight last year. The wire worm develops into a snapper bug, which he says will not do any material damage to the melon vines. This is probably the black bug spoken of as attacking the outer skin of the plant just beneath the surface of the ground.

Mr. Papy has just received reports from all points along the line of the Plant system in Georgia with reference to the melon acreage, which go to show that an unusually large crop is promised this year. The acreage on this system, most of which is in the southwestern portion of the State, is 50 per cent or about 6000 carloads. The calculations need to be about a carload to the acre but it was soon found that the land did not average that amount and at a fair estimate the land makes about three fourths of a carload to the acre. The crop this year is in a flourishing condition, and the indications are that there will be nothing before it now and the time of the maturity of the melons is called Jacksonville Morning News.

A Sure Cure for Hog Cholera.

Mr. Charles H. Crone, of Butler county sends the following to The Greenville Advocate, which he clipped from the Texas Live Stock and Farm Journal:

"It is not often that I attempt to write anything for the press, and it is only now a philanthropic spirit that moves me to write this. Every other in the United States does, I suppose, and very few, if any, put it out and preserve it. Why? Because it is a sure cure for hog cholera. I have never known or heard of it to failure. It is very simple cheap and easily prepared. Directions: Put one half tea spoonful of pure carbolic acid to a gill of sweet milk and pour down the hog's throat. When the farmer sees any symptoms of cholera among his hogs especially when one or two have died, drive every hog and pig into a very close pen. Let no man catch a hog by the ears and set him up with his back between his legs, while another man ops on the hog's mouth with a cork and the medicine before in a very handy neck bottle to easily pound down. Care should be taken not to choke the same one twice. Twice the amount will kill, and every hog, sick or well, on the farm should be dosed.

Now, brother editor and farmer, if you do not use all reasonable means, especially when it costs you nothing, to let every farmer in these United States know this, you ought to have not a little bit of cholera yourself."

Signed J. A. DOUGH.

Brady, Texas.

Her Revenge.

Husband and wife had a little tiff. He buried his nose in a morning paper, while she gazed out the car window with persistent relentless. Thus an hour and thirty minutes passed. A lady entered the car. Husband dropped his paper and looked at her admiringly.

"Ah," said he, "that's a fine woman, and a widow, too. Don't you think she's handsome?"

"Yes, rather. You seem to like widows."

"Indeed I do. They are just charming."

The husband evidently thought this would pique his partner, but it didn't.

"Alfred," she said tenderly, and placing her hand softly on his arm, "Alfred, I guess I was in the wrong a little while ago when I became angry with you, and I'm sorry. Will you forgive your little wife?"

"Certainly. Don't say another word about it."

"And will you grant a little request I have to make to you, hubby, dear?"

"Of course, anything that lies in my power."

"You say you think widows are so charming."

"Yes, I did say so, but"

"Then make me one, that's a good husband. Oh, I shall be so happy."—Texas Siftings.

SOME [illegible] COLD SNAPS

In 1291 the Cattegat was covered with ice seven feet thick.

In 1303 the River Thames was frozen over for fourteen weeks.

In 761 the Black Sea was frozen to a distance of fifty miles from shore.

In 1431 the cold was so severe in Holland that white was sold in blocks and sold by weight.

In 1323 the Baltic Sea was frozen over, and during three months travelers passed from the continent to Sweden on the ice.

In 1434 the Thames and other rivers of England and Scotland froze over. The Seine, Rhine and Danube were closed to navigation early in December.

In 1684 the Thames was covered with ice over a foot thick. Booths were erected for a fair which was held on the river. Coaches plied for hire on the ice, as on dry land.

In 1740 the sea at Venice froze so that during three weeks no vessels could be used. The Ether froze at Rome, and the cold was so intense as had been never known before nor since.

In 1811 the Thames was frozen over eleven weeks. The harbor of Carcagena, Spain, and all communication was stopped in the Greek Archipelago on account of the ice-ice frozen floating by.

In 1814 the cold was so severe in Europe that packs of starving wolves entered Vienna, and all the canals at Venice were frozen, and the principal branch of the Nile was so ice-bound for a week.

The winter of 1823-4 was one of the hardest ever known in Europe. The Thames froze from its source to the sea, the Seine, the Rhine, the Danube, the Po, and the Guadalquivir were all covered with ice. The Adriatic at Venice was frozen, while the Hellespont and the Dardanelles were blocked with ice, and the Archipelago was impassible. In Tiber was liebly covered and the Straits of Messina were covered with ice. Snow fell all over North Africa and drifts 15 feet deep fell in the Nile. This was the winter of Napoleon's retreat from Moscow, when 100,000 men perished, mostly of cold and hunger.—Rochester Union and Advertiser.

Chicago Inter-Ocean: The country is not in a mood to run this country in the interest and at the dictation of English bankers.

A NARROW ESCAPE

The Good Judgment and Wonderful Horsemanship of Two Drivers

Two drivers on the fire department had their horses down Chestnut street, Newark, N. J., Wednesday, just after noon. In response to an alarm they had turned out at the same moment, and while Driver George White, on Truck 1, swung into Chestnut street, engine No. 10 with Stoker Mc[illegible] on the driver's seat, was thundering along just ahead. Both men gave their horses free rein and urged them forward. There were three horses on the heavy extension truck.

White, on his driver's seat, had just come up even with the heads of the engine horses, when, a little in front a man ran into the road waving his hat and gesticulating wildly, evidently motioning for the drivers to pull up. Both men saw him at the same moment. Above the rattle of the engine and truck they could hear the man shouting, but could not distinguish what he said.

The shriek of a locomotive whistle from up the road told them all they needed to know and the next instant the Pennsylvania flyer, which does fifty miles an hour from New York to Philadelphia, without stopping at Newark, shot into view. No power on earth could stop the horses short of the track, and White and McKain saw at a glance that they would meet the train at the crossing. It flashed across White's mind as he saw in a sort of blur the face of the engineer peering out and the arm of the fireman gesticulating frantically from the cab window, that in three or four seconds his truck would be in fragments and the horses and himself dead, with the other men, under the wreck. McKain couldn't pull up, either. White saw that, and he knew he would be killed too, and the two mapped out a plan that gave them all a chance. It wasn't much of a chance, for it depended upon their ability to swing their horses around in the space left by a single track between them and the oncoming train. The flyer was on the second track.

"Pull to your right," White yelled to McKain, motioning with his arm. He turned his head for an instant and saw the man at the steering wheel of the truck that controls the back wheels, his body braced and his hands firm on the wheel, ready for the perilous turn. The fireman's face was white, but he nodded to the driver, and the next instant White had thrown all his power into the pull on the left rein. He could see from the corner of his eye the engine horses swerving off to the right, and then he felt the ponderous truck swing and strain as the horses turned. Deep in the heart and the afternoon, by a tremendous effort, threw the rear wheels around upon the track between the up track and the down track runs a low wooden platform. The inside wheels of the truck scraped it as the horses plunged on, and it is now all impossible that the train should clear them on the other side. There was a crash of air and sound and a thunder of black [illegible] roaring hoarse but finally come [illegible]

The engine was safe. McKain had accomplished a feat of horsemanship hard to be wonderful than White's. At the time that the track seemed to be free he pulled his horses sharply around to the right on the track, headed a foot and the track on which the flyer was coming. Frantic with fear of the oncoming train, with the roar of its approach and the shriek of its whistle, the horses went to their mettle and all the driver's strength and skill were taxed to keep them in the beautiful pattern when it was all over in a moment. The train had passed and the engine was uncoupled. Still the horses fretted on and the women passengers at the open car windows saw a steaming locomotive pitted close in apparent pursuit of them down the track. A hundred yards had been covered before McKain gained control of the animals.—Phonetic Herald.

SEEKING YOUR SMILES

Poets are born, not made. The present state of the market wouldn't warrant their manufacture.—Rogersville Review.

Mrs. Flag: Why do you let me call you three times before you answer?

Tommy 'Cause I dassent make you stop.—Indianapolis Journal.

Benevolent Old Gentleman (with tracts) My son, let me give you a pointer.

Irreverent Boy I'd a heap rather have a pair.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Mr. Commonstock But is the Count gifted with common sense?

Daughter (indignantly) I should hope not, papa. He's a nobleman.—Boston Post.

She It will be a pleasure for me to share your trouble and anxieties.

He But I haven't any.

She Oh! you will have when you are married.—Texas Siftings.

Guy Why do you object to my wearing the hair of another woman on your head?

Beatrice For the same reason that you wear the skin of another calf on your feet.—The Great Divide.

Amy Does Alice Sharp know you well?

Sappington Oh! yes. Why, she takes all sorts of liberties with me; she called me a fool yesterday.

Amy Did she? She must know you quite well.—New York Herald.

"There is one satisfaction," said the fireside sleigh girl, "in being the recipient of attentions from a titled foreigner."

"What is that?"

"You know that when he proposes he means business."—Washington Post.

First Tramp How did you manage to get such a fine lot of stuff from the woman at that last house?

Second Tramp Asked her for work, the first thing I said. She fainted with surprise, and I cussed the whole outfit from here before she came to again.—Somerville Journal.

"Who?" asked the pastor, "will answer the response this morning for the benefit?"

The convicted organ-grinder rose in his pew.

"I'll raise it if somebody else will raise it," he said.

Obviously that was all he could do.—Detroit Tribune.

PEOPLE YOU READ ABOUT.

CANNON—Marshal Canon, the ex-convict, has had to pay probate duties upon $8000 worth of property which he owned in England.

CARLISLE—Secretary Carlisle has formally accepted an invitation to deliver an address on the financial question of the day at the Memphis convention on May 22.

CRANE—Mrs. U. S. Grant and daughter, Mrs. Sartoris, went to Chicago to attend the Grant memorial services at the Auditorium and the dedication of the Press Club.

GOULD—George J. Gould's pointers won the first prize at the Boston dog show. His father used to win a great deal of money with his pointers on Wall street.—Philadelphia Times.

MCADOO—Assistant Secretary McAdoo, who is aboard of the United States steamer Columbia, has telegraphed to the Navy Department that the ship will arrive at New York probably next Saturday.

SIEMENS—The Berlin residence of Dr. Siemens, the electrician, is fitted from cellar to roof with electric appliances and the dining room, kitchen and wine cellar are connected by an electric railway system.

SAURMA-JELTSCH—Baron von Saurma Jeltsch, the German Ambassador, has presented his letters of recall to President Cleveland. He explained that he had been transferred to Constantinople, and the President expressed the regret he felt at parting from the Ambassador.

NEW WOMAN VS. CHAPERONE.

PROGRESSIVE WOMEN DISCUSS THE QUESTION

MRS. LYMAN ABBOTT SAYS THERE IS NO NEW WOMAN.

Others Say There Is, and She Can Care for Herself.

Will she need a woman to act as her chaperone? This was the question asked of a number of the leading thinkers among American women. Their answers vary, as do the women themselves in face, in thought and in life work.

Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher, the widow of the world-famous minister, has gone back into her old home, beside the church which she and her husband loved so well. She is nearing life's sunset, but

Not Very Strict.

her heart is young, and her interest in the old woman, the new woman and all womankind, is just as keen as it was forty years ago. She smiled as she answered my question. "That is a subject which always amuses me. When people say a girl needs a chaperone I always think of myself. I had too much to do to require watching. I was the youngest of ten children, and my father was a country physician. In those days a doctor was a surgeon too, he was advised to cut and bleed, and whenever my sisters saw a patient coming to the house, they would run away and hide.

"Then father would lay his hand on my head and say: 'My brave little girl won't run away and leave her father all alone, will she?' and for those brave words and a kiss, I stood by him when my ten sisters old and helped him while he cut a man's hand off. I would have suffered anything for a kiss; indeed, my mother never punished me except by refusing to kiss me when we went to bed.

"When I grew into womanhood I was glad I had acquired the habit of working, for when I married Mr. Beecher, his time was so taken up with his duties that I was obliged to assume all of the management of the home. I always answered his letters, sometimes thirty and forty a day. I attended to his personal affairs, and I really believe he would never have had a new suit of clothes if I had not bought them. His salary was paid to me, the checks were made out in my name, and I cashed them to save him trouble.

"I took entire charge of the children, sent them to school and to college, and did everything for them without consulting their father to free his hard-working brain. I tried to make his home a restful place. It seems so strange not to have him to think for. You know we were married lacking three months of

The Popular Chaperone.

fifty years. That is a great while for two people to be together. Other women gave their husbands in six, ten, fifteen or twenty years.

"I do not feel that Mr. Beecher is dead, only gone a journey a little while before, and even now that I cannot hear his voice or look into his face, I feel that I am near him. People write me and want to know things about him. Why, only yesterday I answered three letters. I set apart Tuesday to finish the last one. No, I never needed a chaperone. I was always too busy."

Says There Is no New Woman

Mrs. Lyman Abbott, wife of the well known Brooklyn minister, and a poet widely known all over the country as her "Aunt Patience" talks to me about all that is good and lovely in woman. answered the question in this manner:

"I dislike the phrase 'new woman' exceedingly. There is no such thing. Women are the same now as they always have been. They have always been free, but to hear them talk one would think that somebody had suddenly emancipated them from slavedom. Our grandmothers were brave, thoughtful, noble women, helpmates to their husbands, brothers and sons. They thought, acted and struggled against evil fully as much as any woman of today. They were not nonentities or ignorant as some of the women of today assume when they talk about the new woman.

"Oh, how the term displeases me. I have no patience with the non-meaning words. Woman today is just what she was a hundred years ago, and as for the question whether she should have a chaperone or not, that is a difficult problem to solve. Circumstances vary the decision. Women brought up in the country do not require the surveillance girls in the city need. I think where one is thrown in constant contact with strangers, that she is far more exposed than when associated with people with whom she has grown up. In cities I should recommend a chaperone. I think our schools teach the young women to be frivolous and superficial; they do not instruct the pupils thoroughly in one thing, but hurry them through a number of books which they dimly comprehend. Our public schools have much to learn. They graduate the children too young and overcrowd their minds. Before a girl is fully grown she is turned out as educated. Such a change unformed in mind and body, certainly requires the guidance of an older person, upon entering society."

Mrs Sangster's Views

Mrs. Margaret E. Sangster, editor of "Harper's Weekly," was busy at her desk when I stepped in and asked her about the new woman and her need of chaperonage. She laid down her pen and said: "You know I am a very old fashioned woman, and of course would approve of the chaperon. In fact, I dislike all innovations on old customs. I think it is much pleasanter for a young woman to have some older person with her; it removes restraint. A sense of greater freedom follows the fact that a guardian is by to resent any misrepresentation or careless word or action.

"Of course, in the country, where people all know each other, the chaperone is unnecessary, but in large cities where one is thrown in contact with strangers, especially the foreign element, I think girls require the chaperonage of an older person. You can always count upon me for believing in all the proprieties."

Miss Dodge Diplomatic

If Miss Grace Dodge had answered the question yea or nay, it would have carried great weight with it. She is the friend and confidante alike of society girls and girls who make their own living. The good she has done for the working girls in this great city will never be known, but it is known that she has accomplished more for them than any society or association of women collectively.

But she did not answer the question, saying, with a smile, "Really, I have never given the matter a thought, so I can not tell you whether the new woman needs a chaperone or not."

What Mrs. De Crosby Thinks

Dr. G. M. Crosby, one of the talented members of Sorosis, said: "I think the

The Conservative Kind.

question will soon answer itself. Women are every day proving themselves entirely competent to take care of themselves. Their entrance into the business and professional field has done away with old-fashioned prejudices and follies.

"The girl of today knows that a ruined name means a ruined fortune, and she prizes both too highly to run the slightest risk of losing them. Never in the history of the world have girls gone forth into womanhood so well equipped to resist temptation. Yet there is much wickedness going on, but the wine-cup is mostly responsible for it. Under the influence of this, the great evil of the age, many a life is ruined. But for a sober young woman of the nineteenth century there is absolutely no need of a chaperone."

She Needs no Chaperone.

Mrs. Katharine Ackerman Fay, one of the oldest members of Sorosis, thinks that the new woman will shuffle off all slavelike fetters. This is her answer to the question:

"Girls are no longer ignorant of the world and its ways. They read, study and acquaint themselves with all of the questions of the day. They meet men as equals, and not in the old fashion of regarding the male sex as beings of superior mould. Women are reared to make a place for themselves in the world, not to bow down to a lord of creation or else starve. The new woman is proud of her independence, and it is her best protector. Her own sense of right and wrong has developed by being exercised, and she is no longer a toy to be looked at and played with. Why should she need a chaperone to watch her when she has been trained to be mentally and morally strong? It is an insult to think of it."

Jennie June's Selectariat Girls.

Miss Cody Jennie June, the organizer of Sorosis, the president of the Woman's Press Club, and an officer or an honorary member of women's clubs all over the world, should be and is an authority on what is best for womankind. Speaking of her own girls, she said:

"They have been early taught to rely upon themselves, and so should every woman be reared. If they are sheltered and shielded all their lives the training will still be beneficial, and if they have to make their way and earn their place in the great busy world, they will be enabled to cope with and surmount difficulties which would overpower a helpless, dependent woman."

GRANTLAND GRIEVE.

He Knew Something.

Who was the wisest of the wise
The teacher asked; and then
His stupid pupils he observed
With fierce and threatening ken,
A little fellow raised his hand—
"Twas Noah, sir," he explained,
"Cause," he answered,
prompt and clear,
"He went in when it rain'd."

EMPRESS—The Dowager Empress of Russia met with a slight accident Friday while ascending in the elevator of the Pitchkopf Palace. She badly bruised her heel and ankle. The Czar, when he heard of the accident, came in from his summer residence, in order to see his mother, and found that the wound on her foot was improving.

Vessels Nearing Completion and Others Under Way.

It is gratifying to learn that ten new warships are so nearly completed that they can be put into active service this year. One of them, the Amphitrite, goes into commission next week; two others, the Maine and the Terror, can follow her promptly; the rest within a few months. All ten, too, are armor-clads; and since we now have only three armored vessels ready for use, the New York, the Monterey and the Miantonomah, apart from the small single-turred monitors, the strength of the reinforcement thus promised to our fleet is obvious. Another new craft that will soon have her trial trip is the torpedo boat Ericsson.

The year 1895 will be memorable for its additions to the available fleet. Since it opened, four of our newest, finest and fastest cruisers—the Minneapolis, 7,375 tons; the Olympia, 5,870, and the Cincinnati and Raleigh, 3,213 tons each—have been added to the ships in regular service. We thus possess in the gulf a squadron of seven steel cruisers, the strongest we have ever had there. There are seven steel cruisers and gunboats also on the Asiatic station, besides an old but useful iron vessel. Seven vessels again, of various types, are on the Pacific station. Finally, there are a few vessels for the European and South Atlantic stations, and a considerable number on special duty along both our coasts.

The ten new armor clads include three sister ships, the Indiana, Massachusetts and Oregon, of 10,288 tons, which are believed to be unsurpassed anywhere in the world for the combination of defensive and aggressive strength. They are surpassed in speed and steaming radius by some foreign ships of the line, but still are well supplied with both qualities for their functions as coast-line battleships; and meanwhile are pre-eminent among all fighting ships for their stout plating and battery power. The Indiana is far advanced and the other two are not much behind her.

Then we have two fine second-class battle ships, the Maine, 6,682 tons, and the Texas, 6,315, which are still nearer completion. The Maine can go into commission at any time, and both can be relied on whenever called for. Of the three new 3,990-ton double turret monitors, the Amphitrite is ready, and the Terror can follow her almost forthwith, while the Monadnock is not very far behind. The Puritan will require, probably, a few months more. With her 6,060 tons displacement and her big 12 inch guns she is a splendid harbor defender. The ram Katahdin, the greatest novelty in the lot, with her exceedingly fine runs of nearly eighteen knots over the measured mile under natural draft, is also a valuable ally in coast protection.

For next year the additions to be counted on are fewer, but two of them, the Iowa, 11,410 tons, our heaviest battleship, and the Brooklyn, 9,271 tons, our biggest armored cruiser, are of great importance. They will be supplemented by the three gunboats building at Newport News, two being of 1,392 tons displacement and the other 1,371. The three torpedo boats, for which contracts are now to be awarded, ought also to be finished in 1896; they will certainly belong to that year, if built within the contract time. Finally the contract for the submarine boat calls for her completion by March 26, 1896.

Looking a little further ahead, we find two battleships, six gunboats, and three torpedo boats authorized. For such gunboats two years has usually been the time allowed, and that would carry them into 1897, while for torpedo boats only one year is allowed, but much more has thus far been taken, so that perhaps, since proposals for them have not yet been invited, we can hardly count on them before 1897, although the stipulations may call for them by the end of next year.

Meanwhile the great additions of 1895, made available by a provision for enlisting 1,000 additional men, are all the more welcome from the complications that now beset our diplomacy in so many quarters.—New York Sun.

ALL SORTS ASSORTED.

There are paper lead pencils.

There are two solid silver tea tables at Windsor castle.

An apparatus for vaporizing petroleum has been invented.

The amount of gold produced last year in British Guiana [illegible] exceed.

The average age [illegible] ary in civilized countries is 23 1-2 years.

The Solomon Islands have 9,000 square miles, a little larger than Massachusetts.

A colonel in the English army may allow only 10 per cent of his men to marry.

The artificial culture of snails is carried on to a considerable extent in France.

India has 180,000,000 square miles, or nearly two-thirds the size of the United States.

The cost of preparing edible snails of France for market in Paris is $1.25 to $3.86 per thousand.

The Japanese, up to forty years ago, had a very silly custom. They vaccinated on the tip of the nose.

James S. Payton, recently pardoned from the Missouri penitentiary, had had three dates set for his hanging.

The Emperor William has given to the Alexandria library a valuable collection of books on Egyptian subjects.

Queen Victoria's will is engrossed on velvet, quarto size, and is bound as a volume and secured by a private lock.

The importation of Russian oil into Ceylon in 1893 was 100,000 gallons. None was imported from the United States.

Persons bearing the same surname, although they may not be related in any way, are forbidden to marry in Siam.

The Duke of Bedford, being anxious to keep the ponds upon his estate free from parasites, has imported 2,000 frogs from America.

The number of unmarried women in England and Wales exceeds the number of unmarried men by a majority of nearly 200,000.

The Chinese government levies a regular tax on bargees, and giving them in return the privilege of begging in a certain district.

Authorities say that a fatal fall from a great height is absolutely painless. The mind acts very rapidly for a time, then unconsciousness ensues.

Edelweiss is rapidly disappearing in many parts of Tyrol. To save it the Landtag has lately imposed a fine for selling the plant with the roots.

Professional contortionists are more graceful in motions than other people because of the greater flexibility of their limbs, caused by continual exercise.

For unjust imprisonment of her husband, who died the day he was declared innocent, Mrs. Ida Smith asks $10,000 damages from the California legislature.

The pupil of the eye is so called because when looking in it a very small image of everything may be seen, hence the term from the Latin pupillus, or little pupil.

The Chinese Emperor has his dominion acknowledged over 4,218,000 square miles of the earth's surface, a territory one-fourth larger than that of the United States.

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT BUSINESS.

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SECRETARY MORTON ON SILVER.

Washington Post: It is believed that only a very small percentage of the people of the United States, or of any State in the Union are gold monometallists. An overwhelming majority of the opponents of free coinage are bimetallists.

New York World (Dem.): The faith and honor of the United States are pledged alike to citizens and foreigners, to bondholders and to wage-earners, to use in its dealings with them only such money as is always and everywhere uniform in value.

The Press (Rep): The harm of his utterance is not in any opinion he may hold, but in the implication of his declaration against any movement towards an international conference. President Cleveland ought to be promoting such a conference at the present time.

New York Recorder (Rep): It pleases Mr. Morton to say that he believes no international congress could possibly fix a permanent ratio between gold and silver. He evidently is tyro enough in the science and history of money not to know that it has been done before.

Public Ledger: A rigorous adherence to sound principles, regardless of catching or failing to catch votes, is the highest duty of statesmanship, and, no matter whether it is faithfully observed by Democrats or Republicans, the country is all the greater and better for its observance.

Evening Bulletin (Rep.): It will be time enough to face the alternative of a gold standard vs. a silver standard, which Secretary Morton lays down as the certain issue and outcome of the monetary situation, when the possibilities of an international conference have been exhausted.

New York Tribune (Rep.): The country cannot afford free coinage of silver, but neither can it afford another deluge of paper currency. It cannot afford to have anybody setting himself up as a public teacher, and sustained by the plaudits of practical business men, who does not know and steadily recognize the measureless peril of paper inflation.

Evening Telegraph (Rep): A declaration by all the governments on earth that silver shall be worth 16 to 1, as measured in gold, would not alter the facts one whit, and not the rankest sillyrites in creation would accept their favorite metal at that ratio any more readily after such a declaration than they would today.

PEOPLE YOU READ ABOUT.

CLARK—General Freight Agent Clark, of the New York Central Railroad, has resigned his position after forty-seven years' service.

HITT—Congressmen Hitt, of Illinois and Coggswell, of Massachusetts, who are both seriously ill at Washington, were slightly better yesterday.

CRISPI—Since the recent attack upon his life Premier Crispi is said to wear over the region of the heart a light but strong vest of steel mail.

SUBKURSKI—The President has recognized Ferdesio Subikurski as Vice Consul of Mexico at Baltimore for Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

CLARENCE—Chief Clarence, of the Mosquito Reservation, is still luxuriating at Jamaica under British protection, and, with his allowance of $22 a day, feels big enough to buy the Island.

DUMAS—The wife of Alexander Dumas is dead. She had been an invalid for many years, and was, paralytic and blind. It was with the view of bettering her health that Dumas lived so much out of Paris.

CAMPOS—General Campos, who is persuading rebellious Cubans that they had better arrange with their undertakers, is 64 years old, and has seen service for forty years, half that time being commander in chief.

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