



Some Diplomatic History.

"American Diplomatic Questions," by John B. Henderson, Jr., is a large volume in which the history of various diplomatic questions...

"In the early days of Spanish and Portuguese exploration and conquest, vast oceans were demanded as the property of the State. With the growth of the British Empire, exaggerated claims to marine proprietary rights were, for a period, advanced by England...

"The American case supported the contention that Russia had acquired dominion over Behring Sea by immediate use. Alexander I had made formal proclamations...

"The question of Russia's undisputed exercise of her alleged rights in Behring Sea came before the tribunal as an issue of right...

"The author adds in the conclusion of this chapter: 'If the seals were in danger of extermination...

"In consequence of the unusual laws governing their operations, American pelagic sealing vessels have been driven from the Bering Sea...

"The author gives a somewhat detailed history of the inter-oceanic canal problem, which, as he says, has existed almost ever since the discovery of America...

"Assuming that it was possible so effectively to control the canal, its use could be preserved to the United States in time of conflict, and closed against the enemy...

"While the policy of the United States calls for an annual increase in the navy, there are other powers whose needs will require them to only to keep pace with the general advance in armament...

"The Tribulations of a Princess" is an autobiography which possesses all the fascination of a novel. It is said to be a record of the life of a lady of title, and her fortunes during the latter part of the reign of the Emperor of Russia...

"It may often be asserted that England's military occupation of Egypt and her fortification of the Suez Canal, together with her ownership of a controlling interest in the Suez Canal itself, virtually invest her with political proprietorship of that channel...

brought up as a boy, and never knew that she was not one; and the result of this training naturally was a somewhat isolated childhood, with little companionship...

The book is illustrated from photographs and here are a dozen photographs of the princess, who is known in its pages first as "Princess," her father's pet name for her, then as Marguerite, her true name, and finally as "Princess Murza"...

The book is worth reading if only for its first chapters. In the rest of it there is possibly a little too much of the self-conscious introspection native to the Russian mind...

The later chapters take the reader into Court life, and various parts of France, Germany, Austria, and Russia, and where the author's imagination is allowed to vivid and picturesque description of her surroundings and graphic character-sketches of the people whom she meets...

"Reminiscences of Morris Stelner" is a book of autobiography, which, apart from its personal interest, possesses a certain literary interest...

"James Martineau: A Study and a Biography," by Rev. A. W. Jackson, is a book which will probably be of interest to clergymen, theologians and others concerned in the study of modern ecclesiastical history...

"The American nation is no longer vexed by the question of a national religion, but the people of the United States have not yet outlived the influence of the religious faith which they inherited from their ancestors...

"The author's idea of a Trinity is a Trinitarianism which is not a Trinity of three persons, but a Trinity of three aspects of the one God...

"The Story of King Alfred," by Walter Besant, is the latest addition to a "Library of Useful Stories," intended apparently for the reading of young people...

"The Critic" which has made a specialty of exploiting Russian novelties, has a critical sketch of Dmitri Merezhkovski by Herbert French in its September number...

the Buddhist. However, the book is worth reading, as any thoughtful and honest expression of opinion by an intelligent man is likely to be.

Recent Fiction.

"The Supreme Surrender" is a novel of Washington life, by A. Maurice Low. It has been a matter of marvel for some time that no novel has as yet put Washington into fiction...

Of course, it is rather a risky business to try to put Washington into a novel. One must use the character of people who are still alive, for there is not enough ancient history about the town to make it possible to do anything with the Lincoln novel is used up...

"The Land of Cockayne" by Mattie Serra, is a story of Neapolitan life, dealing with the lottery and the belief in influence which it exerts over all classes of the population...

"The Violent Billows of the Tide of Day," by Edith Sessions Tupper, in the Smart Set, is a story of the life of a young man who is a musician...

"The author of 'When Knighthood Was in Flower,' Mr. Charles Major, has written a new novel, which Doubleday, Page & Co. will have ready in a few weeks...

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CURRENT VERSE.

The Fable of the First Cocoon. Ancient the ages and ancient the forest. When at the katydid's call. Bees and butterflies, gold and gandy. Gathered to dance at a ball...

Down in the berry bush, there in the forest. Plinking the wings of the beetles, and golden wings of the butterflies out. There bats the wings they had stolen, the robbers...

Down in the ivy and down in the grasses. Wingless and wily—in shame. Up in the air they were in spirit. Changed in their nature and name...

Blighted in beauty, and robbed of the golden rays, and the motied and blue and green. Wandering a worm in the dawn of the autumn. Then of the little and dew. Shelter it made for the shade and the winter...

If I might give the world one gift. And choose it as I please; if through some miracle I were made to lift. A hand and stretch a new condition over men, I would not strew before them riches that they seek today...

I would not make the dark days fair. Nor cut the bitter winds that blow. Nor bid the sun shine more below. The angry, muddy waters flow. I would not bring the lordly master low. Nor raise the lowly serf to lord...

I would not heed his bitter cry. Who calls upon the poor to wreathe. From these streets a million high God for the starving and oppressed. But he that has his own best bread...

Mountain Mist. Upon the distant mountain's crest. Scattered the clouds, and here below. A hand and stretch a new condition over men, I would not strew before them riches that they seek today...

I seek and seek, but shall not reach. That has alluring as the sea. The blue sea with its sparkling face. But which forever there will be. —Tyng Griswold, in the Boston Transcript.

Requiem. I said to my girl, "You must part. Part now and for aye." So I buried her deep, deep in my heart. "Is it dead?" I cried, "Is it dead?"

As I laid it down in its burial place. It started with threatening eyes. At the sound of my feet, which heaved face. "I shall rise," it said, "I shall rise."

And off as I sit in the twilight gloom. My heart stands at its feet. For a shiner creeps through the lonely room. —Edith Sessions Tupper, in the Smart Set.

Sheep Herding. Agree, slow moving that leoparded sway. That on the edges breaks to scattering spray. The flock which it is herded, and lasts until. To scurry in the laggard feet that stray...

The long, hot days, the dark, winelike nights. No human presence, human sight or sound. The sheep and dogs—was something dark between. Who came for gold oftentimes have madness found...

A blood-horse that forgets his speech. Freezing the word that from the lip would pass. And sends the herdman grooving with his sheep. Face down and best like on the trampled grass...

The collier halt, the slow herd sways and reels. Huddled in flight above the low ravine. Where wild with thirst a herd unsheltered. The sheep and dogs—was something dark between...

Twilight in the City. The violent billows of the tide of day. Unintermittent in their thunder tones. Have fallen but in a minor note. Like a retreating surf-sound far away...

Now, when all the nights are long. And the winds are high. One, though with a little less strong. Hunting, with a sigh. For a sign. —Margaret Vandegriff, in the Atlantic Monthly.

The moon crept over the mountain edge. And made a path of light. The clouds went over a glowing heart. And made of it dark night. Like a giant out of the sea. Playing and tossing the feathery film...

NOTES AND QUERIES.

What is the par value of a share of Standard Oil stock? H. D. C. One hundred dollars.

Which is the largest Christian denomination in the world? The Roman Catholic. What was the population of Gulfport, Miss., in 1867? One thousand and sixty.

Where is the deepest place in the Pacific Ocean, and how deep is it? North-west of Japan; 30,000 feet. What has become of Major B. B. Buck? He is captain of the Sixteenth Infantry.

In what year was Waco, Tex., founded? J. A. It was surveyed as a town in 1849 and incorporated in 1850. Has Minister Conger reached Port Frederick? Yes. He arrived there August 18.

Is there a society of vegetarians in the United States? Yes. Rev. H. S. Chubb, 1022 Potomack Street, Philadelphia, is its president.

How many United States Sub-Treasuries are there and where are they located? Nine, located in the following cities: Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and San Francisco.

What was the ratio of the number of people who voted, to those who did not vote, in Ohio in 1867? As about one to three and a half, the latter having voted for the entire non-voting population.

Which dyestuff, linen or cotton? Does a system of toll roads prevail generally in the country districts of England? L. W. A. Lincoln, though it does not take nearly so many dyestuffs as cotton, has nearly all the old turnpikes have passed into the hands of municipal boards, their speculative builders, in many cases, having quit heavily.

What was the Latin Union? An international monetary association formed in 1865 between France, Italy, Switzerland and Belgium. It was intended to facilitate international trade and to provide a common unit of account.

When were "lumber claims" first permitted on common land? Just what sort of land is sold as such claims? By the act of June 3, 1878. This applied only to California, Oregon, Washington, and New York.

What is the "Scotch snap"? What are the accommodations of the British coast, and of the Bank of England? The reverse, in music, of the dotted note with the short note after it—that is, in the Scotch snap, the dotted note is first, and the short note is second.

At any good book store, or perhaps the author on this subject. It is a book which will do you good. Petroleum and natural gas always occur together, and in porous beds which are saturated with gas, the gas will rise to the surface, and there will be a flow of gas.

Will you give me an idea of the cost of the paper employed in making a book? The cost of the paper employed in making a book depends upon the quality of the paper and the size of the book.

Is there a "West Point Alumni Association"? No; but there is an organization known as the Association of the Graduates of the United States Military Academy.

What is the "West Point Alumni Association"? It is an organization of graduates of the United States Military Academy, formed for the purpose of promoting the interests of the academy and its graduates.

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