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THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN

1560—First English lottery took place.

1610—Galileo discovered Jupiter's satellites.

1644—Archbishop Laud beheaded.

1806—Cape of Good Hope surrendered by the Dutch to the British....Vienna evacuated by the French.

1812—William Jones of Pennsylvania became Secretary of the Navy.

1815—Gen. Andrew Jackson defeated British at Battle of New Orleans.

1840—Penny Post introduced in England by Rowland Hill....Chartist rising at Sheffield, England.

1841—Samuel Scott, daring American diver, accidentally hanged himself on Waterloo bridge, London, while giving exhibition.

1842—Francois Coppee, French poet, born.

1844—Sir Hudson Lowe, governor of St. Helena during Napoleon's captivity, died.

1854—Astor library, New York, opened.

1861—Steamer Star of the West fired upon at Charleston....Jacob Thompson of Mississippi resigned as Secretary of the Interior....Philip F. Thomas of Maryland resigned as Secretary of the Treasury.

1863—Metropolitan Underground Railway, in London, ceremoniously opened.

1866—Steamer London, from England to Australia, founded in Bay of Biscay; 220 lost.

1868—Chinese government appointed Burlingame its special envoy to all the treaty powers.

1871—Paris bombarded....Prince Frederick Charles gained victory over Chanzy at Le Mans.

1880—Upper suspension bridge at Niagara Falls destroyed by wind storm....Thirty-three persons killed and scores injured in whirlwind at Reading, Pa.

1893—Princess Marie of Edinburgh married to Crown Prince of Roumania.

1895—Royalist outbreak at Honolulu suppressed by Hale government....Great street railway strike in Brooklyn.

1897—Count Muraviev appointed Russian minister of foreign affairs....Anglo-American arbitration treaty signed at Washington....National monetary conference met at Indianapolis.

1899—Railroad wreck at West Dunellen, N. J.; seventeen lives lost.

1900—Chicago drainage canal opened.

1901—Twenty-six lives lost in orphan asylum fire at Rochester, N. Y.

1902—Seventeen lives lost in Park avenue tunnel wreck in New York City....Lewis Nixon chosen nominal leader of Tammany Hall.

1904—Chinese Emperor ratified commercial treaty with the United States.

1905—Five killed in railroad collision near Ripon, N. M.

FOREIGN

The upper house of the Austrian, or Cisleithan, reichsrath has accepted without amendment the bill establishing universal suffrage, which previously had been passed by the House of Representatives.

London papers reported that James Bryce had refused a peerage and would go to the United States as ambassador without changing his name, and thus be the first plain citizen to represent his country at Washington.

Just as it came from the French Chamber of Deputies, the new church and state separation act was finally passed by the Senate, 190 to 100. This was directed against those churchmen who had refused to accept the original separation law of 1905, and all clergy who refused under orders from the Pope to give over possession of their residences and church properties to the state do so on penalty of losing pensions. While the priests have disregarded the law providing for religious associations, the laity have made the necessary declarations to protect the churches and other places of worship. It is presumed that the other ecclesiastical buildings will be rented to the bishops and priests at a nominal figure, just as the clergy who have said most without making a legal declaration to hold a public meeting have had only nominal fines imposed upon them.

The French minister of finance has ordered the mints to substitute on all coin the words "liberty, equality and fraternity" for the old device "God protect France." Minister of Education Briand announced that the church buildings taken possession of by the state would be devoted to educational and museum purposes, the seminary of St. Sulpice at Paris becoming part of the Luxembourg museum. The expelled sisters of the Assumptionists order left Paris for Belgium, in the midst of a throng of sympathizers, who shouted: "Down with the Free Masons."

SHOOT AT HUMAN TARGETS.

Frenchmen Bring Bloodless Dueling to an Exact Science.

Shooting at human targets merely for the sport derived from it and as a test of marksmanship, in other words, bloodless dueling or fencing with pistols, has been made possible through the invention by a Frenchman of a harmless wax projectile. This new diversion is really no more serious than fencing with swords and has that spice of realism in it that tends to make any sport popular.

The new bullet is an ingenious device and required a great deal of experiment before being perfected. The situation was thus: A heavy projectile must necessarily have a wounding force, a light one loses its precision and a soft bullet will be changed in shape and describe an irregular trajectory; therefore a harmless projectile to be effective must differ from all these. The Frenchman's product is a spherical ball of wax-fat, with a small charge, and in tests twenty-four balls were lodged in succession in a rectangle four by five inches at twenty yards. At a six-day tournament held in the Tuilleries the efficiency of the wax bullet was demonstrated.

The combatants wear thick screens for masks, with heavy glass over the eyes, and wear thick clothing to prevent bruising from the impact of the balls. The distance is 25 paces and the weapons are revolvers. The director of the combat, keeping his gaze fixed upon a metronome which beats eighty to 100 times a minute, makes the inquiry as in an actual duel, "Are you ready?" and when they reply "Yes" the director, timing his words exactly to the beats of the pendulum, cries, "Fire—one—two—three!"

At the command "Fire!" the adversaries raise their weapons and shoot. The two shots must be made before the command "Three!" As the participants in these trials were experts they made a good average, hitting their man six or seven times out of eight shots. Although more than 1,000 balls were fired, there was not the slightest accident.

The wax bullets can be used in apartments as well as in the open air without the inconvenience of the lead ball of small caliber, which will probably lead to its introduction into the armies of the various nations for practice shooting.—Popular Magazine.

RESULTS NOT AS PLANNED.

Nature Turns Assouan Dam into a Joke on England.

Every year sees new harnessing of nature's forces by man for his uses. But Mother Earth seems to have a sense of humor and gratifies it by turning man's devices into means for his discomfiture. The dam of Assouan is the latest humiliating instance of a tremendous achievement producing results opposite to those planned.

That mighty engineering work was to be the monument to the British occupancy of Egypt. It was to end all famine in the Nile valley. There was to be no further dependence upon the chances of the seasons for the enriching overflows. Held within Assouan's mammoth reservoirs, the fertilizing flood could be released whenever needed. The Nile crops would be perfect and the people happy each year, instead of at such intervals as the whim of the river willed.

All the nations applauded England when the work that was to make Egypt a land of plenty was completed. But nature had not been consulted with sufficient care. And to-day the Egyptians are damning the dam of Assouan with oriental fervor.

Outbursts of fanatics, aggrieved because some of the most sacred relics of the past have been submerged might be disregarded. But there are more practical reasons for the growing discontent. Water, once an occasional boon, now is had in plenty. But the crops are not what they were when the Nile attended to its own overflowing. Grain is scantier, and cotton, the country's most valuable product, is deteriorating. Its once unequalled fiber approaching every year nearer similarity with the more brittle, least costly American staple.

The explanation is simple. It was not the Nile flood but the fertilizing matter held in solution that richened the soil. Those properties are precipitated when the water is held stagnant behind the barrier at Assouan. England, thinking its work finished, finds that it has only begun a more difficult task. Dame Nature has had her joke.—New York Mail.

Her Strong Faith.

"Oh, Tom," exclaimed the fair young maid, as their auto flew along, "there's a church just ahead there."

"But," replied the eloping lover, "we can't be married there."

"Well, but we might stop there awhile and pray that we may not be overtaken."—Philadelphia Press.

Function of a Helpmeet.

The Bachelor—So you are to marry again. I thought you said when your first wife died that the sorrow was so great you could not bear it?

The Widower—You misunderstood me; I meant I could not bear it alone.—Ellegende Blaetter.

The Sole Objection.

Alice—I bear your husband is going to have an automobile?

Eva—That's something I wouldn't permit under any circumstances. Mourning colors don't become me.—Ellegende Blaetter.

Some people's goodness is probably due to the fact that they are never found out.

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