

FRUITFUL.

The clouds hang too low, too low,
The low-bombed streams refuse to sing;
The cold, bleak blasts may bitter blow;

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

An Index of the Prosperity of the Republic.

Something About Its History and Present Management—Over \$100,000,000 Standing to Its Credit—Its Paper in Circulation and Metallic Basis.

Next to the Bank of England, the Bank of France is the largest and most important of all the other banks in Europe.

Having mentioned these analogies between these two great banks, there are points where their conduct diverges.

Another point of divergence, again, is in the government of the bank, where in the French have shown their belief in the efficiency and effectiveness of government control.

The bank was established in 1803 by the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte.

The reports annually issued by the council of this bank to the shareholders are full of interesting and instructive details.

The Bank of France not only informs its shareholders of the amount due to its customers, but also of the total amount operated through their accounts.

There were 8,592 current accounts open at Paris and the branches, with a sum

of £21,724,000 standing to their credit at the end of the year. Omitting the balances due to the treasury, the fluctuations of the total balance due on these accounts are given as regards their limits.

The report congratulates the shareholders on the increase of the metallic reserves in two years of £12,000,000, of which the greater part was gold.

There is nothing more curious in the whole statement than the particulars of the commercial bills and "paper" discounted.

The bank makes advances on public securities, railway securities, and other securities.

The note circulation is given in amplified detail, the statement showing the number of notes in circulation with their denomination, the numbers issued, cancelled, destroyed, and withdrawn during the year.

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Paris was 2,698,252—representing £82,923,506, of 1,677 different descriptions, belonging to 31,157 depositors.

The expenses connected with the Bank at Paris amounted to £255,472; at the branches, £236,633; and of a general character, such as cost of transport of specie, duties and taxes, £129,024.

There are a great many more particulars of less general interest in this very interesting document, but we have given sufficient for our readers to form an idea of its nature.

AUSTRIAN NOBILITY.

Questionably the Poorest Yet Most Exclusive Aristocracy in the World.

No aristocracy of the world is so exclusive as that of Vienna. It seems to have inherited the appalling loneliness and isolation of the Hapsburgs.

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TWO VETERANS MEET.

One of Them Learns That He Was Dead and Nearly Buried Years Ago.

"I had the greatest kind of a surprise a few days ago," said Colonel James Armstrong of this place, a veteran of the Mexican war.

"You see I went to Mexico with the Second Regiment of Pennsylvania volunteers, being a Lieutenant in company E. One of the privates in the company was a young man named William R. Shields.

"Of course we thought the poor monk was crazy, but we couldn't quiet his frantic protestations that we were about to bury a live man.

"While the monk was experimenting with the body, the command received orders to leave Puebla at once and march to the City of Mexico.

"Well, the other day I was in Kuhn's law office, when a hearty-looking old gentleman came in.

"Ah, Colonel," says Kuhn to me, here's another Mexican veteran.

"The name rather startled me, but of course, only for a moment.

"Shields?" says I. "I had a man in my company named William R. Shields."

"I was the man," says he. "That was my regiment and company. The Lieutenant's name was Armstrong."

"Well," says I, considerably staggered, "if you're the William Shields that I mean, the last time I saw you you were dead and in your coffin waiting to be buried, forty years ago this spring, at Puebla."

"I was very sick at Puebla," says Mr. Shields, staggered considerably himself, "but I have no recollection of having been dead and buried."

"Of course not," says I, "but you must have heard about it."

"Never until now," says he.

"Well, then, I've got a nice piece of news for you," says I; "but if any one had told me forty years ago, as I stood looking at you in your coffin, after detailing men to dig your grave, that I would be telling you of it to-day, I'm afraid I wouldn't have believed him."

"And I up and told the old gentleman the story of his death and interrupted funeral. He was as much surprised to hear it as I was to see him alive and in the flesh.

Pleasant for Strangers.

Stranger (in Yorkville barber shop)—"That's twice you've cut me." Barber—"Yes, sah."

THE STAFF OF LIFE.

A Compilation of Interesting Historical Facts Relating to Bread.

Etiymology—Food made from grain. The earliest history we have of bread shows the people did not possess the knowledge of leaven or yeast.

These were made from coarse meal, salt and water, and kneaded with the hands upon a flat surface.

Referring to sacred history we find bread first mentioned in Genesis xviii. 5, when Abraham offered to "fetch a morsel of bread."

The prehistoric excavations at the Lake Dwellings of Switzerland show abundant evidence that bread-making was one of the arts of our prehistoric ancestors.

Tradition gives us that Ching Nong, a Chinese ruler B. C. 1998, was gifted by the gods with the art of making bread with grain.

B. C. 148, numbers of skilled Greek bakers came to Rome and, being given special privileges, soon obtained a monopoly over native bakers.

Pliny says professional bakers were first introduced into Rome at the close of the war with Perses, King of Macedonia.

The difference between leaven and yeast is that yeast is formed by a mixture of hops and barley, or potatoes and malt.

The bread mentioned in the Scriptures was made from either wheat, barley, lentiles or beans.

According to Scandinavian tradition, the swallow hovered over the cross of our Lord, crying "Scula! scula!"

In Prussia women earn from twelve to twenty cents a day acting as guards at the railway crossings.

A BABEL OF FILTH.

Description of a Visit to the Hebrew Quarter of the City of Amsterdam.

There is a part of this great city devoted, or rather given up entirely, to the Hebrew race. It is called the Joodenhek.

Here, as in all countries, they have borrowed the color of their hair and skin from the people they live among.

Mrs. Fourstar's little girl was there. I must tell you one of her odd little sayings.

I took my way through the lonesome wood. Where the jim-jam sat on a tree.

I saw the scam through the other sail. Along with her seamstress three; And the flygar stuck in a pensive mood— Alack! and who is me!

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