Washington Letter.

(From our regular correspondent.)

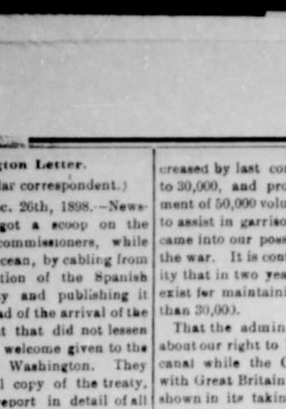
WASHINGTON, Dec. 26th, 1898.—Newspaper enterprise got a scoop on the American peace commissioners, while they were on the ocean, by cabling from Madrid a translation of the Spanish copy of the treaty and publishing it nearly a week ahead of the arrival of the commissioners, but that did not lessen the warmth of the welcome given to the commissioners in Washington. They brought the official copy of the treaty, as well as their report in detail of all the work they did in negotiating it. The commissioners are not talking for publication, but all of them express pleasure at having completed their work and got back home, also at the prospect of the speedy ratification of their work by the senate. Senator Gray, the only democratic commissioner, says he is glad that members of his party who oppose expansion, do not intend to mix that question up with the treaty. He says the treaty should be ratified as it does not bind us to keep the Philippines unless we wish to do so. Mr. Gray declined to say whether he favored or opposed the keeping of the Philippines, but there are reasons for the belief that he will, when the question comes up, oppose keeping them.

It is apparent that party lines are to be drawn in congress on the bill for increasing and reorganizing the regular army. There are two bills, and two reports from the house military committee. The majority, or republican bill provides for the increase in the regular army to something like 100,000 men, while the minority, or democratic bill reduces the regular army, which was increased by last congress to 62,000 men, to 30,000, and provides for the enlistment of 50,000 volunteers, for two years, to assist in garrisoning the islands that came into our possession, as a result of the war. It is contended by the minority that in two years, no necessity will exist for maintaining on army of more than 30,000.

That the administration has a doubt about our right to build the Nicaragua canal while the Clayton-Bulwer treaty with Great Britain is in force, has been shown in its taking the initative steps toward the abrogation of that treaty, which prohibits either country constructing or controlling the canal. The first move was favorably received by the British government, no doubt is entertained of its agreeing to the abrogation of the treaty, although it will probably accompany its consent with a request that we offer more liberal trade concessions to the Canadians than had been done up to the Christmas adjournment of the high joint commission. Senator Morgan has an idea that all the talk about abrogating the treaty, and the necessity for its abrogation, originated with those who are working to postpone canal legislation, although he thinks that the department of state is acting in perfect good faith. He said, "In my own mind, I have no doubt as to the power of the United States to construct the canal, and I do not believe that the abrogation of the treaty is necessary." If congress waits for the abrogation of the treaty, the canal bill will not be acted upon this session.

The senate committee on the Nicaragua canal will, under a senate resolution, this week endeavor to show up some of the tricks which have been adopted by lobbyists representing the Panama canal company, and the New York syndicate which is trying to speculate in a concession to construct a canal on the Nicaragua route. If it succeeds, there will be a lively time when the senate reassembles, and some senators will find it embarrassing to explain what uncharitable persons will give a very harsh name However, congressional committee have, as a rule, always failed in similar efforts; therefore this committee will have actually to uncover something, before it can convince anybody that it is going to do so. Nobody doubts that there is plenty of questionable business to uncover, but lobbyists do not make a practice of putting their work into black and white or of transacting business in the presence of witnesses.

Admiral Sampson, who has just returned from a prolonged stay in Havana, where he was one of the military commission charged with arranging for the Spanish evacuation, says our troops will have no trouble in governing Cuba, because the lawless element on the island has a wholesome fear of the United States uniform. He also says that the Cubans are in no condition to conduct an independent government, and that the best men in business circles hope it can be arranged in some way for Cuba to be annexed to the United States, although they recognize that the pledges of President McKinley and of congress make annexation at this time impossible. It is this sort of reports from trustworthy sources that make it so difficult for the authorities to make even a rough guess as to how long we shall have to keep Cuba under military rule. Some men predict that when the Cuban troops are disbanded, that more than half of those who are not provided for in some way, will take to brigandage for a living, and that will, of course, make trouble for our troops over there.



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The Dominicans of the Philippines.

Correspondents have written us inquiring into the status of the friars in the Philippines to whose abuses we have had occasion to refer in general terms. One correspondent, who evidently does not write so much for information as for the expression of his disapproval of what we have said, declares our references are "offensive, indecent and untrue," and he adds:

"What you style 'appropriation' is simply the just acquisation of land from the government for missionary and educational purposes. The 'pests of friars' have brought 6,000,000 of savages to believe in Christ. Universities and public schools have spread knowledge to a good degree among the natives. These have not been exterminated but are more numerous now than when first visited by their conquerors. There is abundant and undeniable testimony to show the vast advancement made by these islanders since their discovery. Yet you editorially write such calumnies!"

With reference to all inquiries on this subject we present a few facts gathered from authoritative sources, for the subject is too vast for extended treatment.

And first, we may say without fear of contradiction that the abuses of clericalism in the Philippines are greater even than those which existed in England prior to the drastic measures of Henry VIII. Now, there are friars and friars: but good as some may be and are, the worst are the Dominicans; and it is these who not simply rule the church, but are the real governors of the Philippines. Almost equal in ill favor are the Franciscans. Now the annual revenue of the friars is not far from $10,000,000, added to which is the "sanctorum" or church money amounting to $800,000; yet, as a recent writer says, "the allowance for educational purposes in the Philippines, with its population of at least 10,000,000, is only $250,000 a year, not as much as is paid for the same purpose by one of our fifth-rate cities." The lands of these friars pay no taxes. Not only so but these friars make [illegible] leases subject to ground rent, which is said to be "more crushing than the worst English leases in Ireland." But this is not all. Entire monopoly of all religious books, pictures and goods is lodged with these friars, who are authorized to make their own terms respecting fees for christening, for the first communion, for weddings, the last unction, burials, harvest feasts, silver and golden weddings, and other events in which religious forms are employed.

Again, the friars can command forced labor when tenants become bankrupt, for which no payment whatever is made to masons, plasterers, quarrymen, architects and house workers, etc. So we see a rich church, owning millions, receiving fees for all services, owning miles of rich territory, yet compelling these poor unfortunate people with families to work for nothing as soon as they get into trouble! Is it any wonder under such circumstances that the friars have grown rich, and that so oppressive have their burdens become, that it is these, on the part of the Dominicans, that have instituted successive revolutions?—for the revolutions are against priestly abuse—not against the Spanish monarchy *per se*. In how many instances the friars have held corpses, refusing to allow burial until their terms were complied with, are facts in history which could be given *ex fides* had we room for them or was there any occasion for recapitulating them. They have been mentioned by many writers, and notably by Mrs. Ifa m in our contemporary, the Independent. As this writer says, "the present Archbishop of Luzon is the same archbishop who in May wrote the famous pastoral letter in which he denounced the Americans, and, incidentally, the British, as being heretical scum, thieves, assassins, and the assailants of women, unconscious, apparently, of the ac that at the very moment those thieves were holding in trust and protecting for him over $50,000,000 worth of property, nearly every American consul in the far East having been and still being a trustee of real estate for the Dominican friars of the Philippines.

For whatever good the friar and Jesuits in the Philippines have done we give them every praise, and thank God. But as we have said, there are friars and friars. The Dominicans are a pestiferous set, oppressive and cruel; their growth in wealth, their comparatively small contributions to religion and education, and their oppressions visited upon the poor peasantry of Luzon and the other islands of the Philippine group are as foreign to the spirit of the Gospel as they are without palliation or excuse. Happily the day for these abuses, with American dominance, seems rapidly passing away.—Christian Work.

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Did you ever see one? Did you ever hear of one?

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Scrofula appeared on the head of my little grandchild when only 18 months old. Shortly after breaking out it spread rapidly all over her body. The scabs on the sores would peel off on the slightest touch, and the odor that would arise made the atmosphere of the room sickening and unbearable. The disease next attacked the eyes, and we feared she would lose her sight. Eminent physicians from the surrounding country were consulted, but could do nothing to relieve the little innocent, and gave it as their opinion that the case was hopeless and impossible to save the child's eyesight. It was then that we decided to try Swift's Specific. That medicine at once made a speedy and complete cure. She is now a young lady, and has never had a sign of the disease to return.

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EXORCISING A DEMON.

A Sensational Ceremony Last Year in Bavaria Which Recalls the Dark Ages.

Perhaps the most recent instance of this survival of medievalism in one of the chief centers of modern civilization and scientific culture occurred on March 15, 1897, at Munich, Bavaria where a Catholic priest of St. Benedict's church solemnly went through the ceremony of exorcising a demon that haunted a house at 24 Park street in that city. It seems, says Appleton's Popular Science Monthly, that the evil spirit had disturbed the pious inmates of the dwelling by groaning, sighing and making such a racket generally that it was impossible for them to sleep, and was seen one night by a child passing through the room in the disguise of an old woman dressed in black, evidently a survival of the race of ugly and ill-tarred hags who have played such a melancholy part in the tragic annals of witchcraft. On receiving this information the parish priest and his acolytes went at once to the house with aspergills and censers to expel the infernal intruder by the supernal power inherent in holy water and consecrated incense. The event caused considerable sensation in the Bavarian capital.

GROWTH OF FLAX IN INDIA.

The Plant Is Reared Exclusively for the Seed and Not for Fiber.

Consul-General Patterson, at Calcutta, in a report to the department of state, notes a curious fact about flax growing, reports the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. He writes: "In answer to an inquiry from a Chicago firm relative to the quantity of flax produced and exported from India, I would say that flax is grown in India exclusively for the seed. In no part of the country is the fiber produced. Experiments have been made for many years with the same result, viz., that it is no proof that a plant can be made to yield a fiber because it can be grown in a country. Flax, hemp and china grass are admirable samples of this fact. The possible area of fiber production of any of these in India is extremely narrow. Hemp yields fiber in Russia and other countries and cannot be made to produce like narcotic. In India the very reverse is the case, except in a small portion of the Himalayas where it yields admirable fiber and no narcotic to speak of. While large areas of flax are cultivated in almost every part of India and Burmah, it is grown only for the seed, of which large quantities are exported, and not for fiber, and there is no flax exported from India."

Many a Lover

Has turned with disgust from an otherwise lovable girl with an offensive breath. Karl's Clover Root Tea purifies the breath by its action on the bowels etc., as nothing else will. Sold for years on absolute guarantee. Price 25 cts. and 50 cts. W. F. Kremer. 2

MAMMOTH BUILDING.

The Vast Foundations of Chicago's New Post Office.

One of the Greatest Superstructures in This Country—The Structure Will Weigh 150,000 Tons.

If all the materials in the recently completed foundation for Chicago's magnificent government building were to be loaded on wagons, a ton to each load, and 25 feet allowed for each wagon and team, the procession of teams and wagons would reach 731 miles, or as far as from Chicago to Rochester. Gen. William Sooy Smith, engineer in charge of the foundation, recently read a paper on the substructure at a meeting of the Western Society of Engineers, in which he gave many interesting data regarding the work that has been done the past year. These are some of the facts:

The soil on which Chicago rests is loose and sandy, in general, for about 12 feet. Then comes a stratum of hard, brittle clay about three feet thick. Below this, for 50 to 60 feet, there is a very soft, blue plastic clay, with spots of stiffer clay here and there and traces of gravel, but nowhere is the clay firm enough to sustain any considerable weight. At a depth of from 69½ to 71½ feet below the surface hardpan is struck, and this is almost impossible to penetrate. On account of this peculiar nature of the soil it was decided that the most feasible, safest and also least expensive foundation would be one of piles, resting upon the hardpan limestone.

Piles of Norway pine, 5,047 in number, and none less than 16 inches in diameter at the butt and more than ten inches in diameter at the end, were driven by the powerful drivers, and each pile driven until it required from six to eight blows of the hammer to drive the pile one inch. The piles were driven with lower ends squared, not sharpened, and were cut off 26½ feet below street level and 12½ feet lower than low water level of the lake. It was a nice job to cut off these tops of piles at the required depth below, for the trenches kept filling up with water that oozed all too freely through the clay. The work, in fact had to be done under water. The piles and oak platforms bolted to their tops are thus perpetually immersed, insuring everlasting durability. Fifty-nine of the piles are driven under the place where the subtreasury is to be.

As the building is to weigh not less than 150,000 tons, each pile will have its share to perform in sustaining this great weight. But the building will be safe, for each pile is required to uphold but 30 tons, whereas the extreme load it will sustain is 136.75 tons. There are piles under London bridges over the Thames, and also in bridges over the Seine, which sustain weights of from 60 to 100 tons each. When the new Chicago public library was being built 22 tons of pigiron were loaded upon the top of one of the piles, and the weight stood for weeks without settlement.

Upon the tops of the groups of piles white oak timber platforms are securely bolted, and upon these platforms are beds of flint-like concrete three feet thick which have undergone thorough searching tests. The masonry for retaining walls is of Joliet and Lemont limestone. This was laid by eight derricks, laying from 1,000 to 1,500 cubic feet of stone per day. In the excavations for the basement in the center of the lot 22,267 cubic yards of earth were taken out, and in the digging of the outer trenches 54,294 cubic yards more were removed. Concrete to the extent of 5,122 cubic yards, 796,552 board measure of timber cappings, 284,144 cubic yards of stone and 31,327 cubic yards of rubble masonry have been used.

The whole constitutes a typical pile foundation, one in which engineers and architects everywhere are interested, and one which builders of edifices in Chicago would do well to copy. There is no danger that the new government building will settle and crack. Another significant fact, and one which reflects great credit upon the architect and contractors, is that not one of the surrounding big buildings—Monadnock, Great Northern, Marquette or Grand Pacific—has been moved one inch from its place, notwithstanding the heavy pile driving that has been going on for many months. The depression of a part of Jackson boulevard, on account of the pile driving was because the temporary plank wall that had been driven in the outer side of the trench was not strong enough to prevent the spongy, watery clay from coming in to fill up the depression caused within the fence by the pile-driving.—Chicago Times-Herald.

Old Times.

Host—Now, old boy, make yourself comfortable and let's talk over old times. Haven't seen each other since we were schoolboys together. I told you I had married. Well, this is my house, and my wife will be in presently. By the way, you once lived in Niceville, didn't you?

Returned Traveler—Yes; lived there some years.

"Then you may have met Miss Flirty?"

"Met her? I was engaged to her. But so were all the other fellows, one at a time. What has become of her?"

"Why—er—I was just going to tell you that she is the one I married."—N. Y. Times.

A Wise Man.

"Don't you think that fellow who broke his engagement because the girl went to the jeweler and inquired the price of the ring a little sensitive?"

"I think he was wise. A woman like that would be wanting her husband to keep an account of his private expenses."—Indianapolis Journal.

What is Shiloh?

A grand old remedy for Coughs, Colds and consumption; used through the world for half a century, has cured innumerable cases of incipient consumption and relieved many in advanced stages. If you are not satisfied with results, we will refund your money. Price 25 cts., 50 cts. and $1—W. F. Kremer. 3

Executor's Notice.

In the matter of the estate of Horace Woodcock, deceased; notice is hereby given, that the undersigned has been by the county court of the state of Oregon for the county of Josephine, sitting in Probate is duly appointed sole executor of the estate of Horace Woodcock; deceased, with his will annexed.

All persons indebted to said estate are hereby requested to call on the undersigned and settle without delay; and all persons having claims against said estate will present the same, duly verified as required by law, within six months from this date.

HORACE S. WOODCOCK,
Executor [said estate with will annexed.
DAVIS BROWER,
Attorney for the estate.
Dated July 2d, 1898.

A RIPE OLD AGE.

A Colored Woman Believed to Be 124 Years Old—Shows Her Birth Record.

The recent death of Robert Taylor, the oldest person in Great Britain or Ireland, whose age was 154 years, has caused considerable comment in all parts of America. Last April Queen Victoria sent him a picture of herself as a birthday gift.

The death of Taylor recalls the fact that Ohio has a resident who has long since passed the century mark in life. The person referred to is Aunt Mirah Davis. She is reputed to be 124 years old, and she lives about four miles from Swiss Elm, Highland county, O. Mrs. Davis lives with her grandson, who is himself an old gray-haired man. The aged woman is colored, and she is known to most of the residents in Highland county. For a woman who has attained such a remarkable age, "Aunt" Mirah is spry and manages to get around and do her share of housework. According to residents of Swiss Elm, the aged woman can still do a day's washing without suffering any evil effects. She was born and reared in Alabama, but for the past 100 years she has lived in various parts of the north. For the last half century she has been a resident of Highland county. She delights in telling stories and anecdotes of the cotton fields before the rebellion, and she says that she intends to visit the place of her birth before she ends her earthly existence. Aunt Mirah appears to be perfectly well, with the exception of a slight attack of asthma now and then.

An account of the death of Robert Taylor was read to the aged woman of Highland county the other day, and she displayed great interest in the history of the Irish postmaster. Taylor was appointed postmaster at Scarva, County Down, just after the introduction of penny postage, and he held that office to within a few days of his death, attending to the many little details of the place. According to the Westminster Gazette he was born in 1764; others put his age at 119. At any rate it is on record that he was a fifer for the British troops during the rebellion in 1798 in Ireland. He was a Methodist and had built a large hall back of his residence for religious purposes. Aunt Mirah Davis is also a Methodist, and she attends services regularly. Her appetite is good and she thinks she will live to a greater age than that attained by Robert Taylor.

Many strangers who have heard of the great age attained by Aunt Mirah have called on her, and she always receives them in the most cordial manner. The residence of the aged woman is eight miles from Hillsboro, on the Petersburg and Hillsboro pike. In the case of most aged colored people there is no record to show in reference to their birth. In the case of Aunt Mirah, however, there is an inscription in an old, time-worn Bible which shows that she was born on April 23, 1774. This book is yellow with age, and most of the leaves are worn away until they are now as thin as tissue paper. The relatives of the aged woman are very careful about showing the book, as they do not care to have it handled unnecessarily and thereby incur chances of having it mutilated. Aunt Mirah never indulges in the use of stimulants, but occasionally smokes a cob pipe. She is a familiar picture, seated in front of her little cabin, which is surrounded by a cluster of shade trees.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Bismarck Memorial.

In accordance with instructions from the emperor, Prof. Begas has designed a model of a memorial to Prince Bismarck, to be placed in the new cathedral in Berlin. The model is in pastelline, a new material used by sculptors. It will stand close to one of the inner walls of the cathedral. On it will be a life-size figure of the prince and two other figures, one at the head and one at the feet, symbolizing Strength and Justice. The monument will be flanked by candelabra, and the material will be of white marble. The emperor has repeatedly inquired as to the progress of the work, and when he saw it on his return to Berlin. It is that the design for the great Bismarck monument in front of the reichstag is the same artist, is to be altered in some minor details. A youth, sitting described in a book on the right, is to be replaced by a sybil, and the Germania with her foot on a tiger, is to have a more effective pose. The figure of the prince is ready for casting, and will be six meters high. The pedestal is finished, but the models of the smaller figures are not yet made.—Berlin Cor. London Times.

Venezuelan Monument to Americans.

Venezuela has erected a beautiful granite shaft to the memory of ten Americans who embarked in an expedition from Baltimore under Gen. Miranda in 1806 to fight for the independence of the colony. They were captured by a Spanish warship off the Venezuelan coast and beheaded July 21, 1806. These men had served under Washington and Lafayette in the war of the revolution, and were willing to wage another war for liberty. Their names were: Capt. Thomas Donohue, Lieut. Thomas Billip, James Garner, Gustav Burgvel, Charles Johnson, Paul T. George, Daniel Kempner, Miles T. Hall and John Ferris and Sub-Lieut. Francis Farquharson. The monument bearing their names and the arms of the United States and Venezuela was unveiled at Maracay, state of Miranda, in the early part of September.—Chicago Chronicle.

Some Philippine Taxes.

The baptismal fee in the Philippines is $25, and the death fee is $60 for an adult and ten dollars for an infant. A poll tax of $25 for each man and $15 for each woman is collected, and when a man builds a house he must pay ten dollars for having the chimney blessed.

To insure a happy new year, keep the liver clear and the body vigorous by using DeWitt's Little Early Risers, the famous little pills for constipation and liver troubles.—W. F. Kremer.

Big Offer to the Readers of This Paper.

The publishers of the Home, being desirous of further introducing their journal, make the following offers:

Offer No. 1.—Fifteen Complete Novelettes by such authors as Mrs. Southworth, Charlotte M. Braeme, Conan Doyle Haggard, etc.

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Take notice. A choice of one of the above offers and The Home for three months, with stories, fashions, fancy work and domestic topics, sent for only 10 cents. All three offers and The Home three months sent for 25 cents. Send to The Home Publishing Co., 141 Milk St., Boston, Mass.

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Will make a specialty of construction work from your own designs.

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Stages run both ways daily between Grants Pass Oregon, and Crescent City Cal., passing through the following interior points: Wilderville, Love's Anderson, Kerby, Waldo, Shelly Creek, Patrick's Creek, Gasquets.

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Leave Grants Pass	9 a. m.	Leave Crescent City	6 a. m.
Arrive at Waldo	7 p. m.	Arrive at Waldo	8 p. m.
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The training school is graded. Grades accepted from good schools The regular normal school diploma is granted, good everywhere in the state without further examination.

Expenses: All expenses for school year, $125; not including books, $115. School year opened September 5.

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