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She and Her Babe Landed on a Little Chinese Island-Great Objects of Curiosity to the Nailves.

Mrs. P. W. Patton, the wife of Capt. Patton, whose vessel, the American ship George B. Stetson, was burned at sea off the coast of Formosa about two months ago, has just arrived at San Francisco, and tells a graphic story of the destruction of the vessel. She was

the only woman aboard. "I did not understand at first when the starm was given," said Mrs. Patton, "but a moment later my husband came into the cabin and told me to hurry and clothe the baby and myself for a trip in an open boat. By the time I was clothed and reached the deck with the baby the flames had got aft as far as the mainmast and the rigging above my head was all ablaze.

The long boat was in the water alongside with eight of the crew in it, and the baby was carried down a flimsy Jacob's ladder into it by one of the sailors, and I followed. Just as I got into the boat there was a loud roar and the skylight and roof of the cabin was lifted off by an explosion of the gases that had formed in the rooms aft. My husband and his two mates were at the rail of the ship aft when the explosion came and they lost no time in getting in the boat, and the painter was cast off. A moment later the whole ship was a mass of flames from stem to stern, and as we pulled away the great towering mainmast fell.

"A few minutes later there was a sudden roll and all that remained of the once beautiful ship went down into the waves, leaving us in darkness.

"Two days and two nights we were in that boat. About noon of the second day we saw land, and that evening we landed on the little island of Ti Pin Tsen, which was taken from the Chinese by the Japanese during the recent war between those two nations.

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"We landed at a small village of the matives and the baby and I were the greatest curiosities the people of the village had ever seen."

#### BALLOONS FOR BATTLESHIPS.

Naval Bureau Chiefs Considering the Advisability of Equipping New Ships with Such Apparatus.

Naval bureau chiefs are considering the advisability of equipping the new battleships with balloons. The idea is one which comes from Europe and has been tested to some extent abroad. The balloon is sent up from the deck during naval operations to aid in locating the enemy and observing the movements of his ships. This plan would require that apparatus for filling the balloon be kept on board ship with the means of making gas. It has been suggested that the army equipment be adopted. This includes carefully constructed tubes which hold the conidensed gas for the balloon and enable the outfit to be transported miles. There is, on the other hand, no emergency which requires the condensation of gas in the navy, and if the military balloon be added to warships it will probably be accompanied. by the entire apparatus for inflation and filling.

There is always a question whether a balloon serves any practical purpose, although it undeniably increases the radius of fision, which in itself is an important feature in naval operations. The incident which prompts our officers to discuss the idea now is the adoption of the balloon on some of the foreign ships of war, notably in the German navy. While the scheme is in its experimental stage, there have been enough material results since the adontion of the balloon to suggest its utility on board our own ships of war. The policy of our naval strategists in this respect is that we must not allow our possible enemies to distance us in the plan of national armament.

A Yankee Boniface in Siam. Wallace J. Palmer, of New Haven, Conn., used to run hotels in Florida. Fortune took him to Siam, where he thought he saw a chance to make a hit with an American hostelry. He opened one on a small scale and the English-Epeaking residents make it prosper. The place attracted the attention of the king of Siam, who visited it repeatedly and liked it so well that he made Mr. Palmer his caterer, and has since given him a fine plat of land in the capital on which is to be erected a \$200,000 hotel.

Golden Visions in Rome. A Rome correspondent writes that during holy year-next year-it is expected that Rome will draw as many visitors as the Paris exposition. According to calculations which have been made by the vatican secretary of state at least 1,200,000 pilgrims will visit Rome, an average of 3,000 a day. The amount of Peter's pence they will bring is expected to reach \$10,000,000, while the amount of money they will spend in Italy is reckoned at \$300,000,000.

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A Pacific Cable.

The British are about to commence their Pacific cable, extending from Vancouver via certain islands to Australia and New Zealand. It will be 8.000 miles long and complete the electric circuit of the globe. The cost is placed at \$7.500,000, and is to be borne by Can-:ada, Australia and the British government, but chiefly by Australia. The object is to unite the scattered fragments of the empire more closely and also to reduce cable rates.

Burmese Children Smoke. Jane Smoking, long common among Burmese children, is on the increase.

# A TRANSFORMATION.

Wonderful Changes Wrought in Porto Rico by Generous Nature.

Display of Luxuriant Growth of Vegetation That Is Simply Astounding-Sugar Cane Self-Planted-Banana Palms Grow Again.

While commerce and comercial enterprises of every kind are waiting for the United States to give to Puerto Rico a market in place of the one taken from her more than a year ago, nature seems to be trying to show how much she can do for this fertile little island, and it is indeed surprising to behold the changes she has wrought in the past two months. Large trees that were practically stripped of leaves and small branches, are now as verdant as ever and yield almost as abundant shade as before the terrible hurricane. Young sugar cans that was broken down and flooded has straightened up of its own accord and is growing all the more luxuriantly on account of the deposit of mud and soil from the mountains which was washed down on it. It is true the older cane was ruined, but cane that was mature and about ready to cut was replanted in nature's own way. Whole fields of such cane were leveled to the ground and more or less soil washed over them. Wherever a joint of a cane touched the soil or was covered by it, several new cane stocks put forth, and a large bunch of roots reached from the same joint down into the soil. Thus, practically, all the mature cane was turned into seed cane and such fields were abundantly seeded. Of course the planter loses the time while the new crop grows, but he is

saved the labor of clearing and preparing the fields and replanting the cane. Grass grows with great rapidity, and to-day there is grass higher than a man's head where two months ago was a deposit of mud. Grass is never cut and cured here as in the United States, but is fed green to the horses and cattle all the year round. It is cut by the natives and died into sheaves, and is thus sold daily to owners of horses and cattle who do not possess pasturage. But nowhere is the rapidity of vegetable growth shown more clearly than in the banana palms. The storm broke them all off close to the ground, and yet long green shoots put forth at once from the center of the old palms, and to-day they are almost as large and perfectly formed as ever, but it will be some months yet before there will be any fruit.

### DIVIDED SKIRTS DISLIKED.

Teacher in Connecticut Who Work Them Is Forced to Resign Her School.

Trouble in the North street school district has resulted over the fact that Miss Frances L. Wood, a teacher, 21 years old, wore divided skirts and rode a diamond-frame bicycle. Miss Wood came to Greenwich, Conn., from the Warehouse Point state school, and had previously graduated from the state normal school at New Briton. She found a school of 22 pupils who had been used to doing much as they pleased. She made a change at conce

No one was allowed to leave the room during school hours without her permission. To enforce this she locked: the door. One day Charles Silleck, aged 12, tried to jump out of a window, and was pulled back by his feet. He told a story of ill-treatment to his parents, and they repeated it to the school board. Similar stories from those who had been disciplined came to the officials' ears, and with each one was the complaint that she wore "breeches," and was, therefore, incompetent.

An informal gathering in the schoolhouse a few nights ago was held, and the merits and demerits of her cycle costume discussed. Sides were taken. and, as there was danger of the school being broken up, Miss Wood decided to resign.

# NEW EXPLOSIVE.

Arrangements Made Whereby Theorite Will Be Manufactured in the Philippine Islands.

It is proposed to manufacture theorite in the Philippines, and a factory will be established at Manila. Lieut. Charles F. Parker, of the Second infantry, has been selected to conduct the work. He will consult the inventor of theorite, who will send to the Philippines a collection of the materials necessary for the manufacture of the explosive. The composition of theorite is a secret which has been shared with only a few officers who were intrusted with its test. The officials of the ordnance department do not know the component materials. This has made it necessary to secure the services of Dr. Tuttle, of Tacoma, the inventor, and the latter's son, both of whom will go to Manila with Lieut. Parker. Theorite is regarded with favor by the experts. It will be tested practically in the Philippines to determine its value as a charge for heavy shells.

America's Tes Imports Two-thirds of the total tea importations of the United States come in through this port, says the New York Post, or nearly 60,000,000 pounds a year. Althous Americans are not especially known as a tea-loving or tea-drinking people, they consume 90,000,000 pounds of tea annually. According to native growers in the orient, the finest teas come to America. This statement is. in a measure, borne out by the fact that England is striving to have a system established similar to that now operative in the United States, prohibiting the importation of teas that fall below a certain standard of quality.

Texas Rees. Bees raised in Texas are shipped to all parts of the world.

# GRAVEYARD OF THE ATLANTIC

Canadian Government to Take Steps to Protect Commerce Passing Sable Island.

Canada has undertaken to solve the problem of saving Sable island, "the graveyard of the Atlantic," or provide in some way against the time when otherwise the last vestige of land above high water mark will have been washed away. Surveys show the island to be disappearing after every storm, sand banks changing and openings made by the sea into the fresh water lake that runs through the island for a distance of some 12 miles. The island, always a menace to navigation, is becoming more dangerous every year.

Lieut. Col. Anderson, chief engineer of the department of marine of Canada, is engaged on a report of a survey made of the island this year, and it is understood will have important recommendations to submit.

Any plans that may be adopted for saving Sable island will go into the millions. The island is about 21 miles long and averages about eight or nine miles across. The shallows formed by the washings of the shores and changing sand bars already extend out into the ocean five or six miles and are constantly spreading. Lights and fog signals close to the water, advantageously situated for warning steamers that get out of their course of their dangerous neighborhood, are liable to be found far inland and practically useless for protective purposes in a few years, unless something is done to stop the ceaseless destructive work of wind and waves.

The survey will determine to begin with the best points for lighting and signaling, with reference to measures for preserving these at least from further encroachments by the sea.

#### HAVE NEW COACHMAN.

President and Mrs. McKinley Secure Another Colored Man to Preside Over the White House Stables.

President and Mrs. McKinley have a new coachman, Fred Douglas having resigned to take a place in the census bureau. His successor, Spencer Coleman (also colored), has already been initiated into the honors of his new place. It has been customary to fill this honorable position by promotion from the lower ranks of the presidential stables, but in this case all precedents have been set aside, and the new man comes from the establishment of Dr. Rixey, attendant physician at the white house.

The contents of the president's stables are his own property. He has seven horses-two blacks, two sorrels and three bays. The carriages consist of a mail phaeton, which the president uses whenever he takes the reins; a victoria, used by both the president and his wife; the brougham, Mrs. McKinley's favorite equipage for pleasant weather, and a landau, used on all state occasions. When the president drives he usually prefers the two sorrels, Salem and Defiance, two Wisconsin horses, though on occasions of state the blacks are generally used.

HAD HIS GIFT KEPT SECRET.

How the Late Cornelius Vanderbilt Aided a Struggling Kentucky

The recent death of Cornelius Vanderbilt has brought to light a hitherto unknown act of generosity on the part of the late millionaire, by which he enabled the members of a small Methodist church about four miles from Glasgow, Ky., to complete a new house of worship, which they had for some time been struggling to build. This was nearly a quarter of a century ago.

Funds for the erection of the church were being raised by Rev. R. W. Browder, the pastor. He had secured pledwes for almost enough money to complete the church, but found that he could raise no more among his people, who had given all they could afford to. The sum of \$50 was needed to complete the building.

After many efforts to raise the sum Mr. Browder finally determined to write to Cornelius Vanderbilt and lay the church's troubles before him. The minister soon received a letter from Mr. Vanderbilt, inclosing his check for \$50, with the request that no mention be made of the giver's name.

## A BIG FILL

Deep Gulch in South Dakota Which Took 2,880,000 Cubic Feet of Earth for a Roadbed.

On the Deadwood (S. D.) branch of the Burlington railroad is a gulch 700 feet wide, known as Sheep's canyon. This was crossed, until recently, by a wooden bridge, 126 feet high, which took over 240,000 feet of lumber in the building. Recently this trestle was filled in, and the great undertaking attracted the attention of railroad men all over the country. It took 20 weeks to accomplish the task. It was necessary to haul 2.880,000 cubic feet of earth 11/2 miles up a two per cent. grade and unload off the high bridge. This required 1,486 trains of 15 cars each; 22,000 carloads in all. It was a stupendous undertaking, but now the bridge can't burn, and it doesn't cost a lot of money every year for repairs and watchers.

Copper Aburdant in Montana. During the year 1896 the copper production of Montana is officially given at 206,173,057 pounds, against 230,228,-141 pounds for 1897, a decline of 26,114,-984 pounds, equivalent to about ten per cent. During the same period the production of the United States increased from 494,078,274 pounds to 526,512,987 pounds.

Military Musicians. The German army includes more than 10,000 military musicians.

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## TO PRACTICAL USE.

Adaptation of Wireless Telegraphy to Needs in Hawaiian Islands.

Five of the Group to Be Connected by the New System-Cables Not Practicable on Account of Coral Formation.

Telegraphic communication by Sig. Marconi's wireless system is to be established between five of the Hawaiian. islands by a company of Americans. Frederick J. Cross, of the firm of Catton, Neill & Co., engineers, of Honolulu, who is now in New York city, has closed a contract for the American company in Hawaii.

Although many engineers regarded the connection of the five islands by cable as impracticable, because of coral reefs, on which a cable is soon covered with coral growth, breaks are frequent and repairs exceedingly difficult, the American company had about decided to attempt it, as the needs of telegraphic communication had grown most urgent. Then they heard of Sig. Marconi's achievements, and Mr. Cross was sent to this country to view the workings of his system. He found that the Marconi system would cost much less and be more practicable in many ways than a cable.

Regular telegraph business will be done by the company installing the wireless system. The distance over which communication will be established will vary from eight to sixty-one miles.

### CARRIES HIS OWN TELEPHONE

An Eccentric Wanderer from the State of Montana Exhibits the Plant at Evanston.

A walking telephone caused considerable merriment in the business houses of Evanston, Ill., the other afternoon. J. C. Chester, of Glendive, Mont., was the curiosity and he carried speaking tubes and 400 yards of insulated wire wound about his person and threaded in and out through his clothing. A sign upon his breast which read: "Yell 'hello' and place the receiver at your ear," made him additionally conspicuous as he walked from store to store.

Chester is an inventor, and is deaf and dumb. He said he was on his way to Washington to secure a patent on his contrivances, which "assist deaf persons to hear and dumb persons to talk." He needed money to get there and asked for assistance by means of a little tin whistle which was connected by wire to the receiver and through which he lisped the words and breathed. at the same time. The sound thus produced was very faint, but the electric current, which was supplied by a battery carried in the hip pocket, added to its volume and through the receiver resembled a Punch and Judy dialect. Chester is a graduate of the Columbus (O.) deaf mute institute, he said, and carried credentials purporting to be signed by Prof. C. M. Fulton, of that institution.

## PROF. FRYE'S EXPERIENCE.

Qualifications of the Man Selected to Supervise the New Educational System of Havana.

Prof. Alexis Everett Frye, who has been appointed by Gen. Brooke to supervise the new educational system of Havana, is a graduate of the Chicago normal school and of Harvard university. with the grade of master of arts. He is also a graduate of the Harvard law school and a member of the Massachusetts bar. He has taught every grade, from the primary through the high school, has been a teacher of methods in the Chicago normal school, city superintendent of schools in Colorado, and has delivered more than 1,500 lectures on educational topics in almost every state of the union. He is the author of several text books, one of which has been translated into Spanish and has been authorized for use in the schools of Porto Rico.

## HUGE SWARM OF FLIES.

Residents of Sheboygan, Wis., Treated to a Singular Visitation—Swept Along Like a Cloud.

For a short time the other afternoon the air in the western part of Sheboygan was filled with a peculiar small fly. It appeared in one large swarm, covering several city squares, and swept along like a cloud. Persons caught in the midst of the flies were covered with them, as they would have been with snow in a snowstorm. The huge swarm of flies was viewed with astonishment and the streets were lined with those viewing the dark mass as it swept along. No one could be found who had witnessed a similar phenomenon prior to this time.

Bishop Welldon's Linguistic Feat. Dr. Welldon, the new bishop of Calcutta, has accomplished a linguistic feat. Six months after his arrival in India he tok a full confirmation service in the Bengali dialect at Ranaghat, in the diocese of Calcutta. There are many in the episcopacy who take up the study of the Indian tongues, but throw them up in despair. Bishop Welldon, however, persevered and got on so well that, besides the service named, he has already given a sermon in the Bengali vernacular, which is the one mostly spoken in the Calcutta diocese.

# Output of Tobacco.

The United States turns out annually 185,000,000 pounds of plug tobacco, 12,-000,000 pounds of fine cut, 14,000,000 pounds of snuff, 4,000,000,000 cigars and 5,000,000,000 cigarettes.

The Gimlet-Pointed Serew. The gimlet-pointed screw has been responsible for more wealth than most

#### WILL RIVAL THE OCEANIC.

Two Steamers Said to Have Been Ordered for Pacific Trade Will Be Largest Afost,

J. J. Hill, of Duluth, Minn., has contracted in England for the construction of two immense steel steamships for the trans-Pacific trade between Seattle and Japan.

It is said a Clyde firm has the contract and that the ships will be 46 feet longer than the new Oceanic. Each will be 750 feet long and 20,000 tons burden.

They cannot be in service until late in 1901. It is also said that these are

the first of a large fleet. The Minneapolis Times says: The Times is in a position to state with absolute guaranty as to its truth that four steamers, freight carriers, each of 12,000 tons net burden, have been contracted for for the trans-Pacific trade. Owing to the demand upon the ship yards both in this country and abroad the best possible terms that could be made for the construction of these ships fixed their delivery in 1903. It is possible one or more of them may be ready in 1902. No assurance of that is

given to the buvers. These ships will be larger than the Massachusetts, at present the biggest freight carrier which enters the port of New York, but it is regarded as probable that before 1903 comes ships of even greater capacity will have been contracted for.

The Times has been in possession of this information for more than a fortnight, but was not allowed to make it public until now. The Times is not at liberty to state for whom these ships are to be built. It will go so far, however, as to say that they will not sail from San Francisco.

#### GENUINE MOCHA COFFEE.

The Report That None Reaches This Country Is Denied by United States Consul Cunningham.

Some time ago a paragraph went the rounds of the newspapers of this country to the effect that there was practically no genuine Mocha coffee in the United States. Consul Cunningham, at Aden, says this statement is wholly unfounded, as there were invoiced for exportation to the United States during the last fiscal year 32,156 bags, or 5,-144,960 pounds, of genuine Mocha coffee, worth in the neighborhood of \$900,-

He has made a careful investigation and finds that the regulations at Aden are such as to prevent the adulteration of the high-priced varieties of coffee there which are exported to this country direct.

It appears to be true that Mochacoffee is mixed with cheaper grades in Europe to a large extent and then shipped to the United States as pure Mocha, but it is hardly possible an importer who buys his coffee at an Arabian port would get anything but genuine Mocha or harrer coffee.

# SOURCE OF TROUBLE.

Duplicate Names in the House of Representatives That Are a Terror to the Tally Clerks.

Duplicate names are the terrors of the tally clerks of the house, and in the next congress there will be several sources of trouble. In the first place there are six Smiths, one each from Illinois, Kentucky and Maryland, the name of whose state will have to be called, while Michigan contributes three, whose full names must be repeated each time the roll is called. There is much opportunity for confusion as between Roberts, of Utah and Massachusetts, and Robinson, of Indiana and Nebraska. Mistakes will also occur as between Rhea, of Kentucky; Ray, of New York, and Rea, of Virginia. There are four Wilsonsfrom Arizona, South Carolina, Idaho and New York-and Illinois has two Williamses to be confused with the same name from Mississippi. This does not exhaust the list by any means, as the Stevenses, Wheelers, Stewarts and others are doubled up.

## A RARE KIND OF CRINOID.

Especially Fine Specimen Discovered in Kansas Is Given to a Burlington Collection.

The Wachsmuth and Springer collection of crinoids in Burlington, la., the largest and most valuable in the world, has been further enriched by the addition of some of the finest and rarest specimens of the unita crimus, a product of the cretaceous period. The find was made by Frank Springer, of Las Vegas, N. M. while prospecting in southwestern Kansas a few months ago. At present only four specimens of the upita erinus are in existence. The Wachsmuth collection of crinoids has drawn the attention of paleontologists to Burlington from every part of Europe.

## MONEY IN HOLLOW CANE.

Cobbler at Norfolk, Va., Finds \$1,140 in a Woman's Shoe and Is Arrested.

Fannie Barbour (colored), of Norfolk, Va., hid \$1,140 in her shoe for safe keeping. The other day she sent her shoes to Dominico de Ammado, an Italian shoemaker, for repairs, forgetting to remove the money. Missing the money, she sought it of the shoemaker. He said he was an honest man, had not seen the money, and offered to submit to a search. A detective found the missing greenbacks in a hollow cane in the Italian's shop. Dominico is in jail.

Was Free from Snakes. A farmer near Bloomington pumped up a live frog from his drive well the other day. This seems to show, at any rate, says the Chicago Tribune, that there are no live snakes in the well.

# COLLECTION OF BASKETRY.

The National Museum at Washingt Arranging Its Exhibition, Which Is the Finest in Existence.

The National museum is arrangi a recent purchase of basketry and pects to have the collection ready exhibition in the course of the nethree months. Basketry is succeeding pottery as a fad, and the museum price itself on having a fine collection. J. N. Hudson, of Ukiah, Cal., spent greater part of his life in the study a collection of these pieces of Indi workmanship, and the result of years of work can soon be seen at 1 museum, as his specimens have be purchased for \$3,000. A gallery rece ly built above the pottery specimens Oregon and Nevada is filled with the curios. One side of the gallery is voted to the Hudson collection, other cases containing basketry of various weaves and makes of the diff ent tribes of Indians in America. The specimens represent some \$6,000.

The finest baskets are made of roots of trees. These rootlets can of be obtained at least ten feet in leng while pliable wood from the same t would be in short pieces wholly suited to smooth work. Every sort design has been used, displaying a markable intuitive knowledge of geo etry in the figures and designs. Mu of the fine work has been done w the needle, but the weavers have a shown good execution. This bask work has been the kindergarten of lacemakers. Once the needle is int duced basketmaking becomes seco ary, and the women devote their ti to lace making. The collection is go through a treatment of corrosive s limate and alcohol to kill the l beetles which attack the specimen

#### FEAR SHAKING UP.

Married Officeholders at Washing on Anxious Seat - Both Husban and Wife Cannot Hold Positions

Married government clerks are ma festing considerable uneasiness on count of the rumors in circulation general shaking up in the departmen and where husband and wife are ployed by the government one or other will be dismissed. It has the policy of the heads of a numbe the departments to ask for the resig tion of their women employes w they entered the matrimonial state.

This custom is generally recogni by the women, who usually their resignation just before the n riage ceremony is performed. A n ber of them have concealed the however, that they have taken partn and continue to draw their salar signing their maiden names upon vouchers.

The officials claim this is an injust to single persons, and is a serious stacle in securing the employmen unmarried persons. The rule is rigi enforced in the government print offices, and frequently clerks who h concealed the fact of their marriage

dismissed. Recently a couple were mark quietly and said nothing about it. B continued to draw their pay, but w it came to the ears of the public prin he sent for both persons and told th one or the other would have to re As the wife earned a larger salary the husband she decided to retain position, and the masculine membe the firm resigned.

# PERILOUS RIDE OF A WOMA

Miss Trank, Aged Sixty-Seven, Ti els Thirty Miles on the Bampe of a Freight Car.

Miss Trank, 67 years of age, of I son, Minn., was on her way to chi the other morning, when she found crossing blockaded by a stock tr Rather than be late at divine serv she essayed to clamber through cars. Holding her Bible carefully, had just mounted the bumpers of ; and was preparing to spring to other side when the train started,

There was no opportunity to down or up and no one heard her c for help, so she settled herself fi ly on the bumpers and was carried Willmar, 30 miles distant, the trip cupying 50 minutes. When the tr men found her she was hanging to rods with one hand and clutching beloved Bible in the other. Her day bonnet was somewhat out of pl

and her nerves were unstrung. The employes of the road saw t she was well cared for in Willmar. the company sent her home on an a ernoon passenger train in time for ev ing service in Benson.

## PRAISES BULGARIAN ARM'

Col. Epantchin, of the Russian ! perial Army, Makes a Favorabi Report to Russia. Col. Epantchin, of the Russian

perial army, after three months ap in the inspection of the Bulgarian ari has finished his mission. He was ceived in conge audience by Prince I dinand at Sofia and then departed St. Petersburg.

This mission has produced an exce ingly disagreeable impression on triotic Bulgarians, who see in the th an impalpable aggression on the p of Russia. If Bulgaria ever gets c of Turkish suzerainty the patriots h neither Russia nor any other pomay hold the principality in subject The colonel's report speaks in flat ing terms, for the most part, of the i garian army, but that is a trifling si to wounded felings. The infantry, artillery, he says, are satisfactory, the cavalry is defective.

Menelik Olaims Ancient Ancest King Menelek of Abyssinia is sai be at work upon a chain of evide to support his claim of descent f King Solomon.

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