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## THANKSGIVING DAY.

"Once again the season of [the year has come when, in accordance with the custom of our forefathers for generations past, the President appoints a day as the especial occasion for all our people to give praise and thanksgiving to God."—Thus President Roosevelt, in the Thanksgiving proclamation issued in accordance with immemorial custom through the Secretary of State. The date assigned for this year's festival is today, November 28, and on this day a great nation of over 83 million souls will join in a paean of grateful thanks to the Giver of all good things. Truly the Great Republic of the West has good reason for this unanimous expression of gratitude,—not only in a negative sense, for immunity from national disaster, from war and pestilence,—but more especially for benefits of a material order, which have been abundantly showered upon the United States of America by the beneficent hand of Providence. American commerce is assuming phenomenal proportions, a fact for which the citizens of the United States, by reason of their energy and unflagging industry, may justly assume a large amount of credit; but all human endeavour would be as naught if the natural resources of a country were not of such a nature as to provide ample scope for the work of our hands. The mineral, agricultural and geographical advantages of North America are quite unique; a sea-board of many thousands of miles allows of numerous havens and mercantile ports, from which the surplus treasures of the nation are distributed to the world's markets; the vast deposits of coal, iron and other essential minerals have enabled America to become the greatest steel and iron-producing country, and the geologists affirm that these immense resources have, as yet, hardly been drawn upon in proportion to their gigantic dimensions. The agricultural products are on so large a scale that over 820 million dollars' worth are annually exported to Europe and the East, after the huge home demand has been fully supplied. In fact, statistics in all branches of America's economic subsistence are on the same vast scale, and there is no indication of a lapse from the steadily mounting prosperity. True, the recent financial crisis,—this, by the way, is something of a misnomer,—has been widely exploited abroad as a symptom of national insolvency, but the undoubted monetary stringency at the present moment loses all its significance when compared with the Titanic natural and ready reserves at hand in the form of an actual Treasury surplus, amounting to many million dollars, and the ever expanding national wealth. As the President reminds the people, much has been given from on high and much will rightly be expected in return. "Into our care the ten talents have been entrusted; and we are to be pardoned neither if we squander and waste them, nor yet if we keep them hidden, for they must be fruitful in our hands."

Rumours of war have somewhat disturbed the peace-loving American nation during the past year, but happily these have not materialized, nor is there any likelihood that the nation must have recourse to the last dread arbitrament of arms. It is true that the history of nations teaches us that in all ages national prosperity has been fraught with national danger; therefore, it behooves America to falter not in her onward march of progress, moral no less than material, nor to forget ethical responsibility and duty to God and one another in the tide of welfare which, if not navigated with high purpose and unswerving integrity, may eventually overwhelm the structure it was designed to benefit. A people whose watchword is "Onward and Upward" have little to fear from the future, since national honour and integrity are more adequate defences against disaster

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than military prowess, and so long as Americans uphold the banner of economical and political probity, it will be strange indeed if the Great Republic does not rise to heights as yet unimagined by even the most enthusiastic visionary.

## SHAKESPEARE'S "SPIRIT DRAMA."

German spiritualists display in their cult the true note of national downrightness, and soar far above the conjuring séances which seem to satisfy their British colleagues. Early this week there took place a spiritualist festival, and the occasion was marked by the presentation of a "new play by Shakespeare in his spiritual state." Hundreds of spiritualists crowded the building, and the piece was a great success. The title is "Antinous," and the action represents Roman life. The play is "by the hand" of Herr Band, of Munich, but was dictated to him, at his request, "by the spirit of Shakespeare."

## NEW BOOKS.

Tauchnitz Edition, to appear December 5.  
**All Moonshine**, a new novel by *Richard Whiteing*.  
1 vol., author of "The Island", "No. 5 John Street", &c.

## ENGLISH NEWS.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman left London yesterday for Biarritz, where he will make a stay for the benefit of his health.

## THE PAINT VERSUS GUNNERY INCIDENT.

Mr. Robertson, the Secretary to the Admiralty, in a speech delivered at Dundee on Tuesday evening, touched upon the Beresford-Scott incident. It would, he said, be regrettable if anybody should think that a split existed in the fleet. The difference that had occurred was caused by a mis-



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taken conception of the position of one of the Admirals concerned. The speaker appealed to the newspapers not to talk of a rift which, if it really existed, would be a danger to the fleet. The British fleet had never been more thoroughly effective than it is now.

## EXPLOSION IN A CUMBERLAND COLLIERY.

An explosion occurred at a Whitehaven colliery on Tuesday afternoon, by which two miners were killed and eleven injured. Three of the men are missing, and the probability is that they have also met their death.

## RIOTS AT LAGOS.

A telegram from Lagos reports that serious disorders have broken out in that place. One British officer has been killed and thirty native soldiers have been killed or wounded.

(Lagos is an important British settlement in the Bight of Benin, on the west African coast. At the last census the population amounted to about 100,000. The government of Lagos is vested in an Administrator, who is subordinate to the Governor of the Gold Coast.)

## NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

### THE DUMA.

A report from St. Petersburg says that the Duma was opened at two o'clock on Tuesday. The members were all present and the seats for the public fully occupied. The President, M. Chomjakow, announced the pending prosecution of M. Koljubakin, a Cadet member of the Duma. The programme for the day was the discussion of the speech in which loyalty to the Throne is expressed. M. Pliwako, Moscow, read the text written by the Octobrists and defended the terms of the speech. M. Gutschkow, the leader of the Octobrists, said he was aware of the differences of opinion existing between the several parties of the Duma, but he thought that there were moments of harmony even among the most foreign elements. The Speaker gave it as his opinion that an agreement based on feelings of gratitude to the Monarch, who had bravely trodden a new path to legislative reform, was possible. He called attention to the fact that the different members were not the diplomatic delegates of a number of contending parties but rather the representatives of an entire and unified people. The Speaker then expounded the opinions of the Octobrists with regard to the Manifesto and the present State Ukase.

### MORE EARTHQUAKES IN ITALY.

Reports from Bruzzano, Calabria, say that a severe earthquake was felt at about midday on Tuesday. The people were much alarmed, but no damage was done.

### ATTACK ON A GERMAN STATION.

An official report from German South Africa states that the guard in charge of the horses at Koes was fired on by a band of Hottentots on the evening of November 20. There were no casualties and the animals were uninjured. A number of patrols pursued the assailants.

### THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL.

Repeated meetings of former Ministers, both Conservative and Progressive, are being held to decide the position they are to assume in face of the political situation. The Ministerialists also positively state that public opinion will not support the leaders of the old party. The diminution of the gold agio and rate of exchange continues.

The King of Portugal was present at a concert given in aid of indigent musicians, at which the town populace was strongly represented.

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