

to appoint a Committee to enquire into the action of the liquidators of the property of the religious orders, M. Emile Combes said he could not understand how it was that the liquidators had only obtained delivery of 850,000 francs when the orders had received more than eight million francs of State advances, and the revenues had very considerably exceeded that sum. He hoped that the enquiry would throw light on the matter, and he regarded the appointment of the Committee as a work of moral and political importance.

RUSSIAN NEWS.

PLOT AGAINST THE DOWAGER-EMPRESS.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that 19 persons have been arrested on suspicion of being concerned in a plot against the Dowager-Empress of Russia.

SERIOUS STRIKE AT BAKU.

A Baku telegram reports that the employes of many local naphtha firms went out on strike on Thursday.

BOMB FACTORY DISCOVERED.

It is reported from Chabarovsk that yesterday the police discovered a printing establishment conducted by the Social Revolution party, and a fully-equipped laboratory, containing ten loaded bombs. As a consequence, 14 people have been arrested, including an engineer, several Polytechnic students and three women.

THE MOROCCAN SITUATION.

As the operations against the Beni Snassen are considered to have been concluded, says a Paris message, the troops which were engaged in these operations will be sent back to their various garrison posts.

THE BARCELONA BOMB OUTRAGE.

At Lisbon on Thursday in the presence of Government representatives and many thousands of people, the funeral took place of the victims in the recent bomb outrage, when an infernal machine exploded in San Pablo street. All the hotels and shops were closed.

A bomb was found on Thursday in Robador street, Barcelona, but was safely removed before it exploded. The telegram gives no further particulars.

PHENOMENAL COLD IN THURINGIA.

During the early hours of yesterday morning the temperature at Erfurt, Thuringia, sank to 48 degrees of frost (Fahrenheit).

EXPLOSION AT STOCKHOLM.

In the Marienberg ammunition factory, says a Stockholm telegram, an explosion occurred yesterday morning, probably caused by a short-circuit of the electrical installation. The drying-house was hurled bodily into the air, and many adjacent buildings suffered severely. Two female workers were killed.

H. Wirsing, Zahnarzt. Sidonien Strasse 10b, corner Prager Strasse. Tel. 9987.

CHURCH SERVICES: DRESDEN.

ALL SAINTS' (ENGLISH) CHURCH, Wiener Strasse.
Saturday, January 4th. 10.0 a.m. Matins.
Sunday, January 5th. *Second Sunday after Christmas.*
8.0 a.m. Holy Communion. 11.0 a.m. Matins, Sermon.
6.0 p.m. Evensong and Litany.
Monday, January 6th. *The Epiphany.* 8.0 a.m. Holy Communion. 11.0 a.m. Choral, Matins.
Tuesday, January 7th. 10.0 a.m. Matins.
Wednesday, January 8th. 11.0 a.m. Matins and Litany.
Thursday, January 9th. 8.0 a.m. Holy Communion.
Friday, January 10th. 11.0 a.m. Matins and Litany.
Saturday, January 11th. 10.0 a.m. Matins.
Chaplain: The Rev. C. A. Moore, M. A., B. C. L.

THE AMERICAN CHURCH OF ST. JOHN, Reichs Platz 5, at the head of Reichs Strasse.
Sunday, January 5th. Holy Communion 8.0 a.m. Sunday School 10.0 a.m. Holy Communion and Sermon 11.0 a.m. Afternoon Service and address 5.30 p.m.
Monday, January 6th. Epiphany 10.0 a.m.
Friday, January 10th. Litany 10.0 a.m. Meeting of Auxiliaries 10.30 a.m.
Sunday, January 12th. The first of a series of addresses on Confirmation and the Christian Life to which all are invited at 3.30 p.m. in the Church.
The Rev. J. F. Butterworth, M. A., Rector.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Bernhard Strasse 2, at corner of Bernhard and Winkelmann Strasse.
Services every Sunday at 11.0 a.m. Communion on the first Sunday of the month.
Dr. Simon will continue to conduct the services until further notice.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES.

THE BRITISH LEGATION: Wiener Strasse 38.—Minister Resident: MANSFELD DE CARDONNEL FINDLAY, Esq. C. M. G.

THE BRITISH CONSULATE: Altmarkt 16.—British Consul: H. PALMIS, Esq.

THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL: Ammon Str. 2, p. American Consul-General: T. ST. JOHN GAFFNEY, Esq.

LONDON LETTER.

London, December 30.

The weather, for one must speak of it at this time of year, has been behaving itself correctly. It is not long since I had occasion to comment on the absence of fog. This in itself is something of an achievement; but when, in addition to this negative advantage, one is able to record frost, east winds, and a certain amount of snowfall, one feels one has no right to complain. East winds, it is true, have a knack of creeping unpleasantly down one's back; a red nose, also, is unnecessary and undignified: yet what are these trifling matters compared to a seasonable, an "old-fashioned" Christmas? People would be quite ready to swallow their grievances just once for the sake of the tradition of the thing; but the prophets speak disconcertingly of the future. We are to have a real winter. It is one thing to go to tobogganning parties in the country; it is quite another to stumble into piles of brown snow in the gutters. Perhaps I am unduly pessimistic; but I cannot help wondering if Shelley thought of the weather, among other things, when he wrote,

"We look before and after,
And pine for what is not."

Of course the extraordinary thing will be not that our weather has gone colder, but that this year it is going to be colder than usual. Every one knows that in England the cold weather comes as the days begin to lengthen; and the correspondence which has been going on in the papers on the subject has brought to light a few more suggestive theories. It is claimed that a wet autumn precedes a cold winter, as was very forcibly shown in 1893. The observation is at least as old as Gilbert White's *Natural History of Selborne*.

Hugo Borack

English spoken. Purveyor to the Court. English spoken.

4, See Strasse 4,

corner of Zahns Gasse.

Morley's and all other kinds of English Merino.

Woolen underwear.

Flannel shirts. Ladies' Jerseys.

Knitted Waists.

English and German knitted Goods.

Fast-colour black Hosiery for Ladies,
Gentlemen and children.

Shawls, Shetland veils, Wool and Silk, Skirts,
Caps, Felt Shoes and Slippers.

Novelties of the season.

Good practical jokes are getting rather rare nowadays. Swift's little affair with the coach and the sham array of parsons, with which the reading-books of childhood have made us familiar, has a persistent unreality today: it is too good to be true. Somehow the practice seems to have gone out of fashion. Are we too considerate or too dull or too hurried? The other day, however, we had a proof that a good joke, though no very original one, is still possible. It all happened because the Marquis of Cholmondeley has taken warning of Lord Lonsdale's recent losses and set up a burglar trap at his seat in Cheshire. He was very confident in its efficiency, and did not scruple to voice his satisfaction to the members of a neighbouring house-party at Eaton Hall. The house-party put their heads together, and began to plot. Shortly after midnight a motor-car was seen to enter the gates of Cholmondeley Park. It contained six gentlemen of the Duke of Westminster's house-party who had come to prove the insufficiency of Lord Cholmondeley's precautions by removing the Southdown Cup, a treasured possession.

It must be said, in fairness, that they had had special facilities for knowing the weak spots of the house. There was a certain window-sash which would not make serious resistance; and to this the amateur gang made their way, carrying gimlets and other necessary tools. Moreover, one of them knew the mechanical intricacies of the trap. At any rate, the attempt succeeded. One of the party entered the house, took the cup, and deposited a lump of coal in its place. Then two toy dogs in Lady Cholmondeley's room began to bark. The terrified culprits scampered to the motor, and drove off at a break-neck pace. On the next morning everybody met at the hunt. Lord Cholmondeley received the shameless commiserations of the burglars; and to those who knew, as well to those who did not know, the incident was the talk of the day. Meanwhile, before the matter was cleared up, the police had already begun to put two and two together and found it necessary to call on the Duke of Westminster. Of course the cat was already out of the bag, and on the same evening the cup was once more in its old place.

This hoax has been widely appreciated, but probably one of the most successful practical jokes of recent times, in which the public also had a share,

was one played some years ago upon the Mayor of Cambridge. It was at the time of the Lent races. Almost everybody was away on the towing-path. The town and the colleges were practically deserted, when the Mayor received an important telegram. It related to the visit of the Sultan of Zanzibar which had been fixed for that day. Unfortunately the Sultan himself was unable to come; but the telegram announced that his uncle and suite were coming in his place. Accordingly, the Mayor and all his satellites drove to the station in state. Five gentlemen arrived—a young English interpreter with four dusky followers of the dusky potentate. They were imposingly tall, dignified, and well arrayed. The small crowd gave them an excellent reception, and they bowed their thanks. They were, indeed, appreciative though silent. The necessary explanations incident to sight-seeing were conveyed by the interpreter. The visit was a short one; the distinguished personages were going on to some friends in the country not far away, and they left amid undiminished enthusiasm. On the following day the visit was duly reported in the papers. Imagine the astonishment of the worthy Mayor, who had exerted his utmost powers of amiability (he was a flourishing tradesman of the town) when this report was followed by an official denial. The Sultan was unaware of any intention of visiting the University, nor had anyone been delegated by him to visit it in his stead; while it was entirely out of the question that any uncle of his should have been there. The Mayor's astonishment gave way to indignation. He called on the University authorities and demanded satisfaction. By that time the whole business had leaked out. The Mayor's suspicion that it was an undergraduate prank was confirmed by fresh reports in the papers. But there was nothing to be got from the University authorities. Perhaps they showed the Mayor how the fact that the University was not represented at the reception should have stimulated his caution; perhaps they insisted that the University had no detective functions. The Mayor, at any rate, went away a dissatisfied man.

A. K. JANSON, American Dentist. Graduate from Chicago College of Dental Surgery
Dresden, Prager Strasse 10, I.
Specialist in straightening teeth.

Officially the perpetrators of the joke were never discovered; unofficially everybody knew, and everybody laughed. The interpreter came from Oxford; the rest were Cambridge men. They were all made up and dressed in London by a man who knew his business. Every care was taken to produce the most absolute realism: even the interpreter assumed a beard for the occasion—because interpreters, for some occult reason, always do wear beards, and also to make the disguise more complete. The others were all well over six feet tall, and were well-known at the time for their sportive temper. Their self-control must have been enormous; it appears only at one point to have broken down. As the party were descending some troublesome stairs one of the visitors caught his foot, and in giving vent to the customary expletive attracted a little attention. But the incident was insufficient to arouse the suspicion of his hosts until after the truth was known.

The International Pharmacy
Reichs-Apotheke
Grande Pharmacie Internationale
THE LEADING PHARMACY FOR FOREIGNERS
Dresden, Bismarckplatz 10, Next to the Hauptbahnhof.

DRESDEN: LOCAL.

There will be no Vesper service today at the Kreuzkirche. The next Vesper service will be on Saturday the 11th instant, when choral music by Max Bruch and others will be performed with an orchestra.

The Gauklerfest. Those who have not as yet been able to make up their minds to attend the Gauklerfest fixed for the 23rd instant in the Exhibition Palace, and who thereby run the risk of missing one of the most important festivals of the season, will now surely throw all considerations aside, when they learn that the Executive Committee have engaged two of the most celebrated dancers in the world, the passionate Tordajada and la belle Otéro, with their famous *corps de ballet*, for the evening of the festival. In single and group dances a world of grace, rhythmical movement, and beauty will delight the visitors. Not less will the menagerie contribute to the liveliness of the scene, a moving menagerie which will pass in procession through the building in a blaze of colour, headed by an elephant whose broad back will be at the service of any of the fair sex who are disposed to sit on it. A crowd of Assyrian men and women in the hall dedicated to their deity will perform the dances with which these people grace their native festivals. The dancing hall, last year's decoration of which by means of