

Berlin Office:
W., Potsdamer
Strasse 10/11.
Telephone:
VI 1079.

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Dresden Office:
A., Struve
Strasse 5, I.
Telephone:
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BERLIN

The Bishop of London, on his way home from Russia, will stay at Berlin for two days, arriving on February 26 and leaving on February 28. He will be entertained during his visit at the British Embassy. On Thursday, the 27th, his Lordship will preach at a special service at St. George's Church, at 6 o'clock in the afternoon.

The exhibition of old English masterworks at the Royal Academy of Arts will conclude on Tuesday next, the 25th inst., at 8 p.m. On Sunday, Monday and Tuesday the exhibition will remain open until 8 p.m. During the last two days the admission fee will be 3 marks.

How close business connections between the United States and Europe, especially Germany, are nowadays and how much the commercial development of one country is influenced by the conditions in the other, is conclusively shown by some figures which we are able to give herewith. The Consular district of Berlin registered during the period beginning on the 1st of January and ending with the 19th of February, 1907, no less than 1,749 invoices of exports to the United States, representing a total value of 8,525,686 marks. During the corresponding period of this year the figures were 1,391 invoices, with a value of 5,235,076 marks. This is a decrease of 358 invoices with a value of 3,290,610 marks, or forty per cent. At the same time, these figures speak volumes for the depression of general business conditions in the United States at present.

The programme for the entertainment, dinner and ball of the American colony of Berlin in the Zoological Gardens this evening, representing Washington's birthday celebration, is as follows: The only speaker of the evening, to be introduced by the chairman, Consul-General Thackara, will be Dr. Stevenson, of the Western University of Ohio, who delighted an audience by his oration in the American church on Lincoln's birthday. The musical entertainment will be furnished by a quartet singing an introductory song and, after the speech by Dr. Stevenson, *Suwanee River* and *Old Folks at Home*. The company will then sit down to dinner, the *pièce de résistance* being turkey with cranberry sauce, in true American style. After the dinner dancing will commence, which is to terminate at midnight. As about 100 tickets were sold on Friday morning, the committee of arrangements expect about 120 guests at the festival.

All arrangements for the trip of the Minstrel Show performers to Dresden are now complete. About 42 to 45 people, chaperoned by Mrs. Thackara and Mrs. Whittaker, will leave Berlin with the 10 a.m. train on Tuesday, to be received in Dresden by a committee who will escort the company to their hotel. Mr. Knox, who has been in Dresden to look over the ground, is very much pleased with everything prepared by the local committee.

On Sunday night the performers will have a thorough rehearsal at the American Women's Club, to freshen up any item which may have been forgotten since the performances at Krolls. Everybody is looking forward to having a most enjoyable time in Dresden.

It will interest our readers to hear that the Royal Opera in Berlin is preparing, under the patronage of the Emperor himself, a highly interesting performance. One of the old repertoire pieces of the Opera House is a ballet by Taglioni, called *Sardanapal*. It is a pantomime modelled after Lord Byron's immortal drama of the same name, with pictures vividly depicting the main scenes. The *Intendant* reported to the Emperor his intention of producing this ballet in a more modern style, and His Majesty displayed much interest in the project. He consulted Professor Delitzsch, the authority on Assyriology, and the professor went to work with his assistants to furnish all the data necessary to give the new performance a true and historic character so far as costumes, scenery, &c. is concerned. The Emperor wishes to

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WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

One hundred and seventy-six years ago today George Washington, the first President of the United States, and the "Father of his Country," was born in Westmoreland county, Virginia. Of his genealogy many mythical tales are current, one lawless writer having traced back his ancestry to Odin.

Very little is known of Washington's early life, probably because there was little unusual to tell. It is with regret that we are compelled to brand the story of the axe and the cherry-tree as quite apocryphal, this legend having been coined by Washington's most popular biographer, Weems. It has almost been forgotten that only the opposition of his mother prevented the great American from becoming an officer in the navy of King George, as Admiral Vernon had obtained for him a commission as midshipman. But he gave early proof of that military ability and power to command which subsequently astonished the world. His vigorous defence of Fort Mifflin, during the French and Indian war in 1753-54, made him so prominent a figure that in 1755, at the age of twenty-three, he was commissioned commander-in-chief of all the Virginia forces. For some years after this he gave no indications of what is usually considered to be "greatness." As in the case of Lincoln, he was educated into greatness by the increasing weight of his responsibilities and the manner in which he met them.

Perhaps the most pronounced and lovable phase of Washington's character was his absolute lack of egotism. It is a matter of history that, when after the fights at Lexington and Concord he was unanimously selected as commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the United States, he publicly asserted that he did not believe himself to be equal to the command, and that he only accepted it as a duty made imperative by the unanimity of the call. This belief, however, a page of glorious American history triumphantly negated. Immediately after his appointment the marvellous qualities of the man became evident. The manner in which he turned and struck his pursuers at Trenton and

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DRESDEN

"The Editor of the *Record*: To my regret I hear that the proposed 'Smoker' will not come off. If the form proposed (with dinner) does not meet with approval, why not arrange to meet at some 'Local' (where they do not serve nectar, but good decent beer) and smoke, pianofy, sing and tell stories? No room need be rented, no expenses undergone except those for each one's own refreshments. Such informal 'Smokers' can be made most interesting.—Non-Smoker."

Sprach Verein: Thursday evening's session offered those present two treats in the shape of interesting and instructive papers on uniform and consistent spelling, and on permissible combinations and variations of words. These meetings, to which guests are welcome, and in which the discussions on the papers presented are often very lively and amusing, offer all who are studying German with any degree of thoroughness, an excellent opportunity to increase their knowledge of the language.

An esteemed correspondent writes us as follows: "To match the Paris *Herald's* 'wiring' a Marconi-gam, the *Record* of Thursday mentions a crowd attacking a Catholic 'parsonage'. The writer must have been brought up in a Methodist monastery."

In response to this playful gibe we would point out that a parsonage, according to Webster, is: (1) In America, the glebe and house belonging to a parish or ecclesiastical society, and appropriated to the maintenance of the incumbent or settled pastor of a church. (2) In England, the benefice of a parish, or the house appropriated to the residence of the incumbent. A parson (the word is derived from the old German term *Pfarrherr*, and from that, *Pfarrer*) is the priest of a parish or ecclesiastical society; the rector or incumbent of a parish, who has the parochial charge or cure of souls. It is used in this sense by all denominations of Christians.

Here is a problem worthy of the *Dresdner Gesellschaft für Neuere Philologie*, but we think our correspondent will admit that he is euhred!

On Saturday February 29 the IV. and last chamber music concert of the Bachmann-Trio—Herren Bachmann, Bärtlich and Stenz—will take place in the Neustädter Kasino. Programme: Brahms' Trio in C; pianoforte, sonata in F-minor; Trio in B.

The programme of the music to be performed at the Vespers service at the Kreuzkirche at 2 o'clock this afternoon will be as follows:—(1) Fugue for organ in A-flat minor, Johannes Brahms; (2) "Ich aber bin elend und mir ist wehe", Motet for double choir op. 110 No. 1 of Johannes Brahms; (3) "Was ich tue, spricht der Herr", solo for alto voice with bass choir, from the Cantata op. 80 of Heinrich v. Herzogenberg; (4) "Hüter Israels, behüte", song for alto voice by Heinrich v. Herzogenberg; (5) "Wenn ein starker Gewappneter seinen Palast bewahret", Motet for double choir from the "Fest- und Gedenksprüche" op. 109 of Johannes Brahms. The Church Choir, under the direction of Herr Otto Richter, Kantor and Königl. Musikdirektor, will be assisted by the following soloists: Frl. Sophie Stähelin, alto; Herr Richard Schmidt, organist of the St. Jakobikirche. Text and programme at the doors of the church.

In the Central-Theater today, Saturday, and tomorrow, Sunday, two performances will take place. In the afternoon at 3.30 at reduced prices *Christbaums Wanderschaft* by F. A. Geissler, music by G. Pittrich, will be given. In the evening at 7.30 at the usual prices *Der fidele Bauer*, operetta in 1 Vorspiel and 2 acts by Victor Léon, music by Leo Fall will be repeated for the 15th and 16th times.

The guards in the city today are furnished by the 2nd Grenadier Regiment No. 101. The band plays about 12.40 p.m. at the Schloss Platz.