

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

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Dresden Office:
A., Struve
Strasse 5, 1.
Telephone:
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LOCAL ANGLOPHOBIA.

Our leading article in No. 690 under the above heading has induced the *Dresdner Neueste Nachrichten* to reply in its columns. The article admitted of its readers agreeing or not agreeing with us. In the latter case it would have been more to the point to prove the opposite view by facts. But to reproach us with "making imputations" was as much uncalled-for as the very unlovable assertion that our object in publishing the article was "advertisement," and that this advertisement was "short-sighted." Apart from any argument as to whether an advertisement can be short-sighted or not—this failing can surely only attach to the advertisers—we maintain that the object of our article was so perfectly clear that even the *Neueste Nachrichten* might have perceived it. We only wanted to prevent the city of Dresden having eventually to "pay for the window-panes which its Press may have broken." In other words, we desired to give a timely and fair warning against an attitude assumed by the Press which must be most detrimental to ourselves.

Our article might perhaps have made enemies for us; but nobody could regard it as an advertisement. All the kinder was it, therefore, on the part of the *Neueste Nachrichten* to advertise us, even if they have done so according to an old prescription: "Deny what never was asserted." "One must not run after the Britishers!" When was such a suggestion voiced in these columns? Cannot the *Neueste Nachrichten* see the difference between "running after" somebody and incessantly cavilling at him in a purposeless manner.

But in order to somewhat refresh the memory of the *Neueste Nachrichten*, we would remind them of an article which appeared in their number 50 (February 21st, 1908), in which they speak of "hypocrisy and perversion of truth in England"; and where they say that "Britons are so spoiled that they think that without their gracious permission no dog may bark in the field of diplomacy." Also the heading: "Franco-English Vogelweise in London," seems to us, to say the least of it, an unfortunate introduction to an article on the International Exhibition lately opened in London. (No. 130, May 14, 1908).

In view of these—and many other—examples we must, with regret, decline to accede to the demand that we should "state according to truth that the Dresden Press is obliging and friendly towards all foreigners to a degree hardly attained by the Press in any other German town."

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

KING EDWARD TO VISIT RUSSIA.

Press reports circulating in London announce that King Edward will shortly pay a visit to the Russian Imperial family. His Majesty will leave Portsmouth on board the royal yacht and proceed direct to St. Petersburg, where he will remain a week.

A later telegram confirms this report and says that the King will leave England for Russia on June 5, returning on June 12.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

At question time on Tuesday Mr. Ashley (*Cons.*, Blackpool) asked for information as to the progress in the negotiations between the British and Russian Governments on the subject of Macedonian reform.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Sir Edward Grey, replied that on some points the negotiations were not yet completed, and he could not at present add anything to the information which had already been laid before the House. Answering a further question of Mr. Ashley's, Sir Edward Grey said that Mulai Hafid's emissaries had not requested an audience at the Foreign Office.

Mr. Ashley next enquired whether the Government intended, if Mulai Hafid, who was already in possession of Marakesh and on his way to Fez, should make his entry into Fez, to recognise him as Sultan.

Sir Edward Grey said he had not been informed that any circumstances had occurred that would justify the Government in considering such a step; whereupon Mr. Ashley asked with whom the Secretary of State would treat if not with Mulai Hafid in case the necessity for treating with the Government of Morocco should arise.

Sir Edward Grey replied that Great Britain could not recognise more than one ruler at a time. (Laughter.)

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S HEALTH.

From a source in which the utmost reliance can be placed, I learned on Monday night (says the *Central News* correspondent at Mentone) that Mr. Chamberlain has now so far recovered that he seems quite his old self. He is undoubtedly wonderfully better, and it is many years since he has been so free from his old enemy, the gout. The right hon. gentleman looks bright and well, though he still manifests some slight signs of lameness when walking. Walks and drives he takes daily, and is now constantly receiving friends, all of whom are delighted at the great improvement in him. The weather now could not be more favourable to the distinguished patient.

On June 18 Mr. Chamberlain will go to Aix-les-Bains, to undergo the treatment, from which he hopes much. My informant tells me that Mr. Chamberlain is greatly cheered by what he himself describes as the "swelling wave of Tariff Reform", and was particularly pleased at the result of the Wolverhampton by-election. He is seriously and keenly anticipating taking an active part in the councils of his party on his return to England.

THE GERMAN MUNICIPAL VISIT.

On Tuesday morning the South German mayors and town councillors visited the Old Bailey Post-Office, the chief telephone exchange, the Stock Exchange—in which they were greatly interested—the Royal Exchange, and the Bank of England. Upon arriving at the Central Market they were greeted with a chorus by the porters. In the afternoon the visitors were entertained at a garden-party by Mr. W. H. Lever, M. P., whose art collection of paintings by Reynolds, Constable, Romney, and other old masters excited their lively admiration. From there they proceeded to the Hungarian Exhibition at Earl's Court, where a dinner was given in their honour.

THE ANARCHISTS IN CALCUTTA.

A Calcutta telegram states that the police confirm the report of the finding of a bomb the size of a coconut on the steps of St. Andrew's Church, in Circular-road on Tuesday. Evidence shows that the bomb was left there by a Bengali.

The trial of persons arrested during the recent raids on Anarchist dens was opened on Monday, the required Government sanction having been obtained to the charge of conspiracy and abetting war against the King, besides committing offences under the Arms Act.

THE INDIAN FRONTIER CAMPAIGN.

Reuter reports from Simla with regard to Monday's battle in the Bohoidag Valley that the enemy were 2,000 strong. Sixty of them were killed in the fierce conflict. One of the leaders was recognised as a brother of the Ameer of Afghanistan.

THE "GLADIATOR" DISASTER.

The bodies of First-Class Petty Officer Thomas William Franklin, of Portsmouth, and Leading Seaman William Charles Butt, of Titchfield, Hants, both victims of the "Gladiator" disaster, have been found floating in the water at Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, near the scene of the wreck, by men in a launch belonging to the Liverpool Salvage Association's steamer "Ranger". On the day of the disaster, Butt was seen to go down with other men in a whaler, which was damaged in the collision and sank, most of the men in the boat being lost. Franklin appeared to have sustained severe injuries about the head. Eight bodies have now been accounted for, but those of Lieut. Graves and 18 other men are still missing.

A verdict of accidentally killed or drowned was returned at the inquest held at Port Victoria, Yarmouth. The jury accepted evidence of identification by Second-Class Petty Officer Brouch, from the guardship "Spanker," who said he found on one body the name of "Franklin" on the silk scarf round the neck, and on the right arm was deceased's gunnery instructor's badge, while the name of Butt was found on the socks on the other body.

The Prince of Wales visited the wrecked "Gladiator" on Tuesday, journeying from Cowes in the Admiralty yacht "Fire Queen."

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

A NEW ATLANTIC FLEET?

It is reported from Washington that plans for the formation of a temporary Atlantic Fleet to take the place of the absent squadron have been prepared and approved by the Navy Department. This fleet is to consist of three battleships, one of 16,000 tons and two of 13,000, two armoured cruisers of 14,500, three protected cruisers, two gunboats, and two fast scouting cruisers.

We give the above telegram as it reaches us, but are inclined to believe it based on misinformation. It is unlikely that at so late a stage of the day a substitute fleet is to be formed for the Atlantic. The sixteen battleships are expected back at Hampton Roads by February next, and nothing has recently occurred in the world of politics to render the presence of a United States fleet in the Atlantic urgent. Possibly, however, the Government contemplates the formation of a nucleus Pacific squadron of the above-mentioned units, to guard the Pacific coast until such time as the Senate sees fit to authorise a more generous building programme and thus provide a powerful force for permanent duty in those waters.

AMERICA AND THE TOKIO EXHIBITION.

During Tuesdays' sitting Congress unanimously passed a bill providing for a grant of one and a half million dollars, to be devoted to the representation of the United States at the international exhibition at Tokio, Japan, in 1912.

BRYAN ENDORSED BY TWO STATES.

The Democratic State conventions of Alabama and California have endorsed the nomination of Mr. Bryan as Presidential candidate.

(Continued on page 2.)