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AN ALLEGORY ON THE WESER.

Writing upon the prospects of better relations between Great Britain and Germany, Mr. W. T. Stead says:

Before the German pastors came, Dr. Lunn had organised a very successful visit from the Burgomasters of South Germany who, headed by the Burgomasters of Frankfurt and Munich, spent a busy week in England, were received by the King, entertained at Windsor, and departed after having had a very good time. It should not be forgotten that it was Dr. Lunn's municipal visits to Germany some years ago which inaugurated the whole of these international picnics, which have had such excellent results in improving the relations between the two nations. And while we are giving honour to whom honour is due, a special tribute of praise should be offered to the North German Lloyd Steamship Company. This company, one of the greatest in the world, has shown itself also one of the most public-spirited. Its director, Herr v. Hilholt, was the first man to realise the importance of the proposal for the interchange of the visits between editors. Since that time the North German Lloyd Company have been practically at the disposition, without fee or reward, of the various parties, editorial and pastoral, that have interchanged visits. They began by bringing over forty German editors, then they sent a special ship to take sixty English editors from Southampton to Bremen, and then crowned the edifice by placing 135 berths in the most magnificent vessel in their service at the free disposition of the Committee. Roused by this into a generous emulation, the Hamburg-American Line at once undertook to take back about one hundred of the pastors from Plymouth on the same terms. Such illustrations of a statesmanlike spirit on the part of steamship companies enables us to understand one of the secrets of the growth of the German mercantile marine.

The 135 German priests, pastors and professors of the English pilgrimage were taking their first meal upon the "Kronprinzessin Cecilie" when that magnificent vessel grounded on the sand just off the mouth of the Weser. It was in vain that her engines strained their utmost strength to force her off the shoal. In vain the great screws churned up the sand and water into foam. The most splendid floating palace in all the German mercantile marine lay helpless and inert—until the tide rose. Again and again the engines were set going, sometimes forward and sometimes backward. The ship would not budge! Four hours we lay there watching a solitary man fishing at the base of the Red Sand Lighthouse, enjoying the sunshine and the vast expanse of water. Not all the King's horses and all the King's men could move the ship. There was the best will in the world on the part of everybody aboard. Never were there more powerful engines more intelligently directed. Nothing availed, until silently, and almost unnoticed, the tide rose beneath her keel. Then, almost without an effort, she resumed her journey. Just in such wise the cause of Anglo-German friendship, which ran aground during the South African War, seems now once more to have the floodtide under its keel. May it reach its destined haven as safely as did the "Kronprinzessin Cecilie":—

There is a tide in the affairs of men
 Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
 Omitted, all the voyage of their life
 Is bound in shallows and in miseries.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

London, July 21.
 During the debate on the Old Age Pensions Bill Lord Cromer criticised the measure from a financial point of view, declaring that the expenditure incurred by the proposal would necessitate the imposition of new taxes. At present, he said, it should be the first duty of the Government to husband the national resources and thus prepare for the drain caused by an European conflict, which would assuredly break out before many years had passed.

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If it became a question of national interests and popular passions were aroused, not all the peaceful intentions of reigning monarchs would suffice to avert the conflict. If the Old Age Pensions Bill becomes law, said Lord Cromer, the principles of Free Trade would be endangered, since it would be necessary to place additional taxes on imports for the purpose of finding the required funds, and such action would precipitate the possibility of war.

Lord Rosebery and several Conservative peers also adversely criticised the Bill.

Lord Lansdowne feared that the passage of the Bill would act detrimentally on the national financial resources, but stated that he would not vote against it since the Government had assumed full responsibility for the measure.

Lord Crewe said that the Government would make quite certain that neither this nor any other measure they advocated would be allowed to exercise a detrimental influence on the national defences.

The Bill was then passed for second reading by 123 votes against 16.

THE DISTURBANCES AT BOMBAY.

Bombay, July 20.
 Four thousand men from the spinning factories gathered outside the city at 7 o'clock this morning and created disturbances. The manager of one of the factories, police, and other officials, together with a detachment of infantry, went to the scene, where the manager exhorted the mob to disperse. This request was refused, and the crowd marched away from the city followed by the police. At this juncture stones were thrown at the police, who were obliged to use their revolvers, killing several of the workmen. The casualties are not yet known. Later on the mob broke up.

Bombay, July 20.
 It is now known that during the conflict between the police and the strikers one native was killed and seven were wounded. None of the police was hurt.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

"GRAFT" AT SAN FRANCISCO.

London, July 20.
 The Times publishes a communication from its special correspondent at Vancouver to the effect that a Greek named Claudians has confessed to exploding a charge of dynamite in the home of Mr. Gallagher, an ex-supervisor of San Francisco, causing the partial destruction of his house. Claudians declares that he was promised \$5,000, and that his brother was to receive a similar sum for an attempt on the life of Mr. Gallagher, but that the money was not paid. So far he has refused to divulge the names of the persons who employed him. Mr. Gallagher is the principal witness against Ruef and the other alleged bribe-givers, and it is asserted that there is evidence to connect the recent outrage at Mr. Gallagher's home with the "grafters." The latest move of the enemies of the "graft" prosecutions is an attempt to obtain the disbarment of Judge Dunne, of the Superior Court, before whom most of the proceedings against Ruef and Schmitz were brought. The San Francisco Examiner is making itself conspicuous by its sympathetic attitude towards the "grafters."

Abraham Ruef is now free, having been liberated on enormous bail, but he does not display such effrontery as Schmitz. The ex-mayor of San Francisco appears to glory in having spent a term in gaol, and recently gave a banquet to the embezzlers and other criminals who were with him in prison.

THE VISIT OF THE FLEET TO NEW ZEALAND

A member of the New Zealand Parliament, Mr. Malcolm, indicated in the House last week that there was danger that the visit of the American fleet might cause the colonists to place dependence on the United States rather than on Great Britain, and for that reason he regretted that the invitation had been given.

MISHAP TO A BATTLESHIP.

Honolulu, July 20.
 Five men were badly injured yesterday by a boiler explosion on board the United States battleship "Kearsage." No serious damage was sustained by the ship itself.

AN AERIAL TRANSPORT COMPANY.

Boston, July 20.
 Mr. Cliden, president of the American Airship Transport Company, declared today that in about eighteen months his company will inaugurate a regular airship service for both passengers and freight between New York, Boston, New Haven, and Springfield. An aeroplane service between the same towns will probably also be instituted.

NEW YORK-CHICAGO RELAY RUN.

The New York correspondent of a contemporary states that Broadway was enlivened one day last week by the start made in sending a message from the Mayor of New York to the Mayor of Chicago, a distance of 1,000 miles, by boy runners of the Young Men's Christian Association. The message was to be carried by relays of runners, each of whom covered a distance of half a mile, at the end of which he passed the message to another runner. The sporting feature of the event was the sprint which each boy made to cover his half mile in or under schedule time, and 2,000 boys took part. The run was made without pause, regardless of weather or accident, and it was expected that the message would be delivered last night (Tuesday), the first boy having left New York on Wednesday morning last. Lake Cayuga was to be swum by runners stationed there to save time.

PAINFUL TRAGEDY AT CHEMNITZ.

Chemnitz, July 21.
 A weaver named Oeser, 27 years of age, who had until recently been an inmate of a lunatic asylum, was having a wound dressed at his father's dwelling this morning, when he suddenly produced a revolver and attempted to shoot the surgeon. The father sprang to his son and attempted to disarm him, but Oeser turned the weapon on him and inflicted a mortal wound. As the old man sank to the floor in a dying condition the maniac escaped from the house and took to the woods, but subsequently appeared in the study of the rector of Pienbusch, whom he fired at and fatally wounded. The clergyman expired some hours afterwards. The maniac thereupon walked into a neighbouring police-station and gave himself up.

ADMIRAL ROJESTVENSKY'S REPORTED DECEASE.

The Frankfurter Zeitung yesterday morning published a report of the death of Admiral Rojestvensky, who commanded the ill-fated Russian Baltic fleet at the battle of Tsushima. The report said that the Admiral died at Bad Nauheim on Sunday night. It now transpires, however, that this was not the case. The mistake arose from a similarity of names. Admiral Rojestvensky is still at Nauheim, where he is taking the cure. His heart is said to be affected as the result of wounds he sustained during the battle of Tsushima.

PRESIDENT FALLIÈRES IN DENMARK.

Copenhagen, July 20.
 The French battleship "Verité" with President Fallières on board arrived here today. A steam launch containing the King and several gentlemen of the Court at once put off to the warship, where they were heartily greeted by the President. The Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Raben, was presented by the French Ambassador. The party then re-embarked on the launch and proceeded to Toldboden, at which place the State Ministers, the

(Continued on page 2.)