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# The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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## THE FINISHED CHARLATAN. REMARKABLE ECCLESIASTICAL TRIAL.

(From our London correspondent.)

Most of your readers are doubtless familiar with the extraordinary story centring around the Rev. Smyth Pigott, an unbeneficed clergyman of the Church of England, who has conferred unenviable notoriety on the little hamlet of Spaxton, Somerset, by the amazing establishment he has founded there with the suggestive title of "The Abode of Love." This individual is the successor of the unspeakable Prince, an unfrocked clergyman, who many years ago created the Agapemonite sect and gathered around himself large numbers of weak-minded men and women. They were shut off from the world, living together in their own colony, and, if all accounts are to be credited, indulging in every species of debauchery under the cloak of religion. In due time Prince died, but his evil work was not allowed to rest. Smyth Pigott, who appears to be more brazen than his predecessor, assumed the mantle and promptly announced himself as the "Messiah." From a London suburb, where he and his foolish followers first installed themselves, they were driven by the righteous indignation of the inhabitants, subsequently finding refuge in a magnificent country mansion at Spaxton, which is within easy distance of Bridgewater. From time to time sensational rumours were circulated in the surrounding villages and duly reproduced in the press, but it was not until June, 1903, that the authorities awoke to a full realisation of the infamous proceedings carried on within the walls of the "Abode of Love," as the building was named. At that time the local registrar was called upon to register the birth of a child in the "Abode," the parents being given as Smyth Pigott and a Miss Ruth Preece, a young woman who appears to have been attracted to the Agapemonites and become infatuated with the imposter himself. The registration ceremony was conducted with the greatest pomp, but the most amazing feature of this amazing event was the attendance of Mrs. Smyth Pigott, the leader's lawful wife, who not only appeared perfectly unmoved by the evidence of her husband's unspeakable perfidy, but actually encouraged his hypocritical mode of life. Since then a second child has been born to the same parents, and at this juncture the Bishop of Bath and Wells, in whose diocese the "Abode" is situated, deemed it advisable to take proceedings against the man whose presence was fostering such widespread scandal. The trial took place on Wednesday (Jan. 20) in the Consistory Court of the Cathedral at Wells, and resulted in the condemnation of the defendant in costs. Further drastic action is now expected from the Bishop, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the county, and indeed the country, will be made too hot for this impudent charlatan who seeks to disguise his evil courses under the cloak of sanctity. His career is itself a story of vicissitudes as remarkable as his present occupation. Starting as a sailor before the mast, he afterwards decided to enter the Church, went to Oxford, and was ultimately ordained. He served as a curate for some time and then drifted into the Salvation Army. He is said to be the possessor of a large fortune, all derived from the pockets of his deluded followers.

### FRIGHTFUL EARTHQUAKE IN MOROCCO.

HUNDREDS KILLED AND INJURED.

Paris, January 22.

Several local newspapers this morning publish reports from Tetuan (Morocco) to the effect that the Remeras district, located some thirty miles to the south of Tetuan, has been devastated by a violent earthquake or landslip. Several large villages were wiped out and many hundreds of people killed or injured. The news was first conveyed to Tetuan by refugees from the scene.

### THE CHOLERA IN ST. PETERSBURG.

St. Petersburg, January 22.

Thirty-four fresh cases of cholera were reported in the capital yesterday. The number of patients under treatment is now 314.



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## THE YELLOW PERIL SCARE.

### UNREST IN CALIFORNIA.

San Francisco, January 22.

The revival of the anti-Japanese agitation which found vent in the formulation of the legislative measures recently condemned by President Roosevelt and Governor Gillette, is now being manifested in other directions. Several prominent newspapers are demanding the immediate return of the United States battleships to the Pacific Coast, which is declared to be entirely unprotected against the Japanese attack that is popularly believed to be probable. The same papers favourably comment on the statements contained in a document published by the Army General Staff with regard to the construction of fortifications at San Pedro harbour, near Los Angeles. According to this document, a "certain Oriental Power" could land 100,000 men on the Pacific Coast within a month, and increase this army to 300,000 by the end of two months. It is further stated that, once the enemy secured possession of the coast with an army of these dimensions, it would be impossible for the United States to dislodge the invaders. These disquieting reports are made use of by the Californian press to strongly demand the maintenance of an adequate American naval squadron in the Pacific. It is rightly pointed out that the permanent fleet kept in those waters would be hopelessly out-classed by the naval forces of Japan.

London, January 22.

The Daily Telegraph reports from Tokio the speech delivered by the Japanese Premier, Marquis Katsura, at the opening of Parliament yesterday. The Marquis said that while the friendly relations of Japan with other Powers showed a marked increase during the past year, the Anglo-Japanese alliance had become even still closer and more firm.

## THE BRITISH PATENT LAW.

### PROTESTS IN AMERICA.

Washington, January 22.

After a lively discussion, the Department of Commerce and Labor has appointed a special Committee to impress upon State Secretary Root the expediency of concluding a treaty with Great Britain for the protection of American patent rights. A deputation of the Department of Commerce and Labor called at the State Department yesterday to lodge a protest against the British Patent Law.

## "BLANK, HOPELESS CHAOS."

### GRAPHIC REPORTS FROM MESSINA.

#### MORE SHOCKS IN SOUTHERN ITALY.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, January 21.

One of the most lurid descriptions of the awful devastation at Messina is contained in a letter from a young British naval officer to his family here. He writes:—"Chaos—absolute, blank, hopeless, irretrievable chaos. That is all I can say. As far as one can see, every second house collapsed, a great fire raging in the midst of Messina; cruisers and destroyers (Italian, English, Russian, French) hurrying about with medical comforts and stores, invalids (barges full of them); and one knows that not half, not a quarter, of the suffering has been or can be alleviated by so much as a straw's weight. A man came in to the captain today from a village some miles inland. He said that the village was wrecked. All the young men uninjured had fled, and the place was occupied by feeble old men and invalids. And then he had to be sent away without hope. There are hundreds of villages in just as bad a plight. The whole district is under martial law, and pillagers are shot at sight. We have heard plenty of significant shots out here. The English share in the relief ought not to be forgotten for a long time. The "Sutlej" has taken three boats of injured to Syracuse. The "Minerva" arrived on Wednesday morning with stores. The "Exmouth" arrived the same evening with 30,000 blankets and medical stores; the "Philomel" on Thursday afternoon with about a dozen doctors; the "Duncan" on Friday morning, with stores, 60 R.A.M.C. men, and a full field hospital; and the "Euryalus" with stores, a few hours later. There are also two Russian cruisers, two French cruisers, one Italian cruiser, and two torpedo-boats. The King of Italy is here in person. When we shall get a mail nobody knows; and when you will get this nobody knows. I have been very busy today checking provisions, etc. We have landed a tremendous amount, and still have on board.—Biscuits, 10,380lb.; flour, 19,600lb.; coffee, 4,984lb.; corned beef, 6,048lb. And it is but a drop in the ocean. An exploring party has just returned, telling the most gruesome stories."

In a letter, dated the following day, he says:—

"I have been ashore with a stretcher party. I have seen enough misery today to last me for ever. We went about five miles inland, and from the time we left the shore to the time we arrived back I did not see a single house that had not been destroyed. At some the roofs had fallen in, others a wall had fallen away; and of the majority there was just a heap, nothing more. One of the first things we came to was an old woman. Her shoulder had been put out, but bad as she was, she had to be left, temporarily. Then we came to a house in absolute ruins. Underneath were from seven to nine dead people—father, mother, and family. Of the uninjured natives, honestly, I do not believe one out of a hundred knew what he was doing. I know of two cases where people were buried under debris. Yet no effort was made to help them until we came and dug them out. There are at present many in the field hospital. If I were to tell you all the sights we saw in Villa San Giuseppe you would be horrified. Little babies, old men, women, are all the same. Some have broken legs, some arms, some injured chests; yet their relations do not want them to be taken to the hospital. They try to hide them, and if they are discovered shriek until the injured are taken out of hearing. After we went on to another village called Rosalio. You see a mere pile of debris. There could not possibly be anything alive underneath. I am not a bit amazed now at the number of dead (which will probably reach two hundred thousand). The only thing that astonishes me is how the number is not greater. One thing I am sure of—the part played by the English. This will not be forgotten for many years to come. I dare not tell you of some of the things we have seen. It is absolutely ghastly."

Naples, January 22.

Dr. Collins, the Bishop of Gibraltar, has arrived here from Malta. In recounting his experiences at  
(Continued on page 2.)