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The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DAILY RECORD.

The articles on the above subject which have been appearing in your journal have come most opportunely, and must prove of very great interest to everybody. Some further details of the discovery by "le Comte de Douglas (Minnesota, U.S.A.)" of a stone with a runic inscription dated 1362 are reported in a Hamburg newspaper, from which it appears that Mr. Hjalmar Ruel Holand von Ephraim, Keeper of the Archives of "The Children of Norway," has exhibited the stone in one of the rooms of the History Society of Chicago. The stone is said to attest that long before the arrival of Columbus in 1498 some Norwegian sailors discovered the American continent, and indeed your contributor must have proved this fact conclusively in the minds of all who have followed his lucid articles. Tracings of the inscription, accompanied by photographs, have been sent to the University of Christiania, and some Norse scholars have made a translation which coincides with that recently supplied by your New York correspondent. It runs as follows:

"Eight Goths and twenty-one Norwegians on a voyage of discovery from Vineyard to the West. We put into port in two rocky islands two days' voyage from this stone. We spent a day fishing. When we returned we found ten of our men covered with blood, lying dead. We lost ten other men in trying to save our ship at forty-one days' voyage from this stone, which we have erected in the year of our Lord 1362."

The stone is said to be well preserved, and the runic characters are very plain. As your Hamburg contemporary observes, the information contained on this stone has not yet received the endorsement of the learned world, and your contributor himself appears to look askance at it.

If I may add a few remarks I should like to state that it is generally accepted that if Vespucci Amerigo's account of his own voyages be trustworthy, he found America about a fortnight earlier than Cabot, who discovered Newfoundland on June 24, 1497, and on May 30 in the following year Columbus first saw the mainland. An observation made by Professor Wilson in his "Life of Chatterton" occurs very forcibly to the mind when reading about the supposed runic inscription on the stone found in Wisconsin. The Professor remarks that America, too, has its literary forgers, but that they fly higher than manuscripts. They usually discover some writings on stone going back to the cradle of civilisation. From this it would appear that Professor Wilson had in mind the famous Dighton stone at Taunton, Mass., mentioned by your contributor as being of Indian origin. T. L. G.

THE STEINHEIL CASE.

Paris, June 19.
Madame Steinheil has now been placed on trial for the alleged murder of her husband and mother last year.

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ECHOES OF THE IMPERIAL MEETING.

Reval, June 19.
The following official communiqué has been issued from the Imperial squadron lying before this port: "The interviews between the two Emperors are a new proof of the traditional and cordial friendship prevailing between the two reigning houses and personally between the two monarchs. This friendship was emphasised by the words of the toasts which their Majesties exchanged. The conversations between the statesmen who accompanied their Sovereigns have further established the fact that no sort of friction exists between Russia and Germany in regard to the different political questions, and, further, that on both sides there is a sincere desire for a continuance of good relations between the two nations. Moreover, it is now recognised that the respective policies of Russia and Germany are in no sense antagonistic to these good relations, and that both sides are anxious to contribute towards the peaceable solution of all political problems."

Yesterday the Tsar and Emperor Wilhelm paid a visit of inspection to the German cruiser "Cineisenau," and at one o'clock luncheon was served on board the "Hohenzollern," the guests including the Tsar and Tsarina and the Russian statesmen of the Imperial suite.

London, June 19.
The Daily Chronicle writes: "The cordial feelings which the two Emperors have mutually expressed can only be welcomed with pleasure by all friends of international peace and good-will. It is a satisfaction that the relations between the two countries have stood the strain of recent events in the Balkans. That those relations are not inconsistent with other friendly alliances is proved by the fact that the Emperor Nicholas will next visit President Fallières and the ruler of Great Britain. The Daily Graphic considers that "the two monarchs are entitled to all confidence in their efforts for good relations and universal peace; but if those efforts are not shared and supported by their subjects, they will not be of much consequence. The interview in the Baltic leaves the political situation very much where it was."

St. Petersburg, June 19.
Owing to the prospective arrival of the German Crown Prince and Princess in London on July 29th

next, the touring programme of the Tsar of Russia will undergo some slight alteration. According to the new arrangement, the Tsar and Tsarina will first visit Denmark, and then proceed to France, arriving in Cherbourg on July 31st. The date of their arrival at Cowes, Isle of Wight, is now fixed as August 2nd.

THE SHELLING OF A BRITISH STEAMER.

(DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT.)

London, June 18.
This morning's newspapers contain some details of the outrage on the steamer "Woodburn" by warships of the squadron escorting the Imperial Russian yachts to the meeting-place off Reval. The steamer is owned by the Blyth Shipping Company of Newcastle, who have received telegraphic messages concerning the occurrence from the master, Captain Robertson. It appears that when the Russian squadron was sighted, the "Woodburn" was on her correct course and in charge of a Finnish pilot. Without warning two blank shots were fired from the leading Russian cruiser, and as he attached no significance to these, Captain Robertson held on his course. Then followed in rapid succession four live shells, two of which struck the "Woodburn," wrecking a section of the engine-room. One of the stokers was badly hurt in the leg by a splinter from the shells. The Russian flotilla then disappeared, and after temporary repairs had been made the steamer continued her voyage. The injured stoker was subsequently landed at Viborg and conveyed to hospital, where his condition is said to be serious. The newspapers have little comment to make on this occurrence, which they attribute to extreme nervousness on the part of the Russian officer in command of the squadron, who doubtless thought he saw some sinister motive in the near approach of the British ship to the Imperial yacht. The strange outrage by the Russian Baltic Fleet on the Hull fishing boats is naturally recalled, but the recent change which has taken place in Anglo-Russian relations doubtless accounts for the fact that no London journal endeavours to make a serious business of this latest incident.

St. Petersburg, June 19.
The view is held here that the firing on the British steamer "Woodburn" on Thursday occurred as the result of a misunderstanding, which the press unites in characterising as extremely deplorable.

BALLOONING FATALITY.

St. Petersburg, June 19.
A balloon which made an ascent yesterday manned by members of the local Aero Club came to grief last night while attempting to effect a landing. M. Palitzyn, a well-known Russian aeronaut, was killed, and his wife sustained very serious injuries.

CHOLERA AT ST. PETERSBURG.

St. Petersburg, June 19.
During the last twenty-four hours 34 new cases of cholera have been reported, and ten patients have succumbed.

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