

## TALMAGE ON RUSSIA.

He Believed It to Be a Much Lied-About Empire.

T. DeWitt Talmage is a firm friend of Russia. He believed that country to be the most advanced and lied-about of any in the world. In a sermon Sunday he spoke with great earnestness on the subject, and among other things, speaking of the famine in that country and America's aid, said:

"I sat at the dining-table in the house of one of our American representatives beside a baroness who had not only impoverished her estates by her contributions to the suffering, but who left her own home and went down into the worst of the misery, and until prostrated with fever; then reviving and toiling on until prostrated by the small-pox. She had come home to get a little strength, and in a few days she was going down again to the suffering districts, and commissioned me to execute in America a literary enterprise by which she expects with her pen more money, all of which is to go for bread to those who lack it. These are the noblest qualities. They are of the nobility, not only the nobility of earth but the nobility of heaven. You know we have in America certain names which are synonymous for benevolence—George Peabody, James Lenox, William E. Dodge, Mr. Slater and so on. What their names mean in America Bobinski means in Russia.

"The Emperor has made larger contributions towards this relief fund than any monarch ever made for any cause since the world stood, and the superb kindness written all over the faces of Emperor and Empress and Crown Prince is demonstrated in what they have already done and are doing for the sufferers in their own country. When a few days ago I read in the papers that the Emperor and Empress, hearing an explosion, stopped the royal train to find out what accident had occurred, and the Empress alighted by the side of a wounded laborer and held his head until pillows and blankets could be brought and the two wounded men were put upon the royal train to be carried to a place where they could be better cared for, I said to my wife: 'Just like her.'

"When I saw a few days ago in the papers that the Emperor and Empress had walked through the wards of the most virulent cholera, talking with the patients, shaking hands with them and cheering them up, it was no surprise to me, for I said to myself: 'That is just like them.' Any one who has ever seen the royal family will believe anything in the way of kindness ascribed to them and will join me in the exclamation of that too prevalent opinion that a tyrant is on the throne of Russia."

## Blondin's Daring Feat.

The walk of Charles Blondin over the Falls of Niagara, 400 yards, was the longest ever made on a tight rope. The first journey across was on the 30th of June, 1859, and he continued the journeys during that and the following year. The rope was about three inches in thickness, made entirely of hemp, and its adjustment in its place was, in its way, an engineering feat. The rope cost over £1,000, and remained in position for nearly two years. Special trains were run on the railroads, while enormous stands on either side of the Falls were adorned with people. Blondin had given exhibitions until 1860, when he crossed over on stilts before the Prince of Wales, then making a tour through America and Canada. He was photographed while standing still in the center of the rope. He walked across enveloped in a sack made of blankets, wheeled a barrow across, turned somersaults, cooked a dinner, and carried a man over on his back. Blondin, who is the champion tight-rope performer of the world, though a Frenchman, now lives at Niagara House, South Ealing, in his adopted country. On the rope, Blondin says he feels as safe as if walking along an ordinary street. The rope that he performed on at the Crystal Palace was 170 feet high and 249 yards in length. Though now 68 years of age, Blondin has begun a second tight-rope performance at the botanical gardens at Old Trafford, Manchester. Since his famous exploits across Niagara he has made more than 4,000 journeys along the rope in various parts of the world.

## Caring for Rings.

Don't wear your rings under gloves unless you remember to have them thoroughly examined twice a year, is the advice given by a jeweler. The constant friction wears out the tiny gold points that hold the stones in place, and unless strict attention is paid to them they become loose in a very short time.

## Small Purse of Suede Leather.

Small purses of suede leather are made on purpose for rings, or any soft pouch of skin or chamois may be used to place the ring in when desiring to carry them around with one. They should never be put into the ordinary pocketbook as the rubbing against coins is also bad for them. Diamonds can be cleaned at home to look as well as when done by a jeweler, if only a little trouble is taken. They should be thoroughly cleaned in alcohol and then dried in boxwood sawdust. Pine sawdust is too oily for this purpose. Silver filigree may be brightened by washing it in ammonia and water, using a fine brush and castile soap and drying in the same manner as diamonds. In case it is very much darkened and the stones refuse to disappear with ordinary treatment, hypo-sulphite of soda should be pur chased according to his advice.

## Origin of the "Old Dominion."

Few persons are aware of the origin of the name "Old Dominion" as applied to the State of Virginia. During the usurpation of Oliver Cromwell she declared herself independent of his authority, on which account the usurper threatened to send a fleet to reduce the colony. Wearing to withstand such a force, the colonists dispatched a messenger to Charles II—then an exile in Flanders—inviting the royal outcast to be their king. He accepted their invitation, and on the very eve of embarking for his throne in America was recalled to the crown of England. In gratitude for Virginia's loyalty he quartered her coat of arms with those of England, Scotland and Ireland, as an independent member of the British Empire. These facts are established by the coin. This is said to be the origin of the phrase "Old Dominion." Few persons, probably, are aware that one of these States was so near becoming an independent kingdom, and yet only the restoration of monarchy in England prevented such a consummation.

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

## AT HIS MOTHER'S GRAVE.

A Chinaman Vows to Keep a Three Years Vigil Over the Spot.

PAPERMAKING is now the fifth in the list of American industries. It is used in many arts and for scores of purposes.

A MYSTERIOUS ringing of electric bells in a Swiss house was traced to a large spider, which had one foot on the bell wire, and another on an electric light wire.

A MODIFICATION of the drawing compasses, called the spirograph, has been devised by a French mechanician, for quickly and accurately drawing curves and spirals of any desired size.

GLASS with a wire core is a new material made in Dresden, the glass being fused to the wire while in a plastic state. The adhesion is said to remain perfect under severe fluctuation of temperature.

A MEDICAL discovery reported from Edinburgh is that severe inflammation of the brain, due to blows on the head, can be cured by lubricating all the internal membranes of the nose with glycerine. This gives relief to the brain by causing the water to descend by the nose and throat.

J. C. STEWART, the well-known comedian, owns an island in the mouth of Chesapeake Bay, on which there is clay that would turn out pure aluminum at sixteen cents a pound. The clay has been examined by a Philadelphia chemist, and at the end of the season a company is to be organized to manufacture the metal.

A NEW gunboat of the Swedish navy has the combined qualities of ice breaker, tugboat, fire engine, water distiller, torpedo repairing ship, and man-of-war. She is one hundred and twenty feet long and twenty-one feet wide, is equipped with four Nordenfelt guns and torpedoes, and has engines of one hundred and fifty horse power, giving a speed of twelve and three-fourth knots.

WHITE lead is poisonous to most people; but there are examples of individuals who are unaffected by it. John Jarvis worked for over fifty years in the well-known white lead establishment of Wetherill & Brother, Philadelphia, and always enjoyed good health. He lately died of old age. Thomas McCann was another example. He worked over fifty years in the same concern.

## FEMININITIES.

You can still find a man now and then who is expecting to get to heaven on his wife's church membership.

OUT of the 240,000 domestic servants in London it is estimated that 10,000 are always out of employment.

MRS. JONES.—"Don't trouble to see me to the door, Mrs. Smith." Mrs. Smith—"No trouble; quite a pleasure, I assure you."

SOME of the people who are the most anxious about the recognition of friends in heaven are the ones who shake hands with two fingers in church.

"How different you soldiers are from us!" said Arabella to the Captain; "with us a conquest only begins, while with you it ends the engagement."

NEVER pronounce anyone to be a willful niggard until you have seen the contents of their purse. The distribution should be in accordance with the receipts.

HOBBS.—"There goes a man who has buried fifteen wives." Mrs. Hobbs—"For heaven's sake! what is he? A second Bluebeard?" Hobbs—"No—an undertaker."

VERY few people go into an argument in order to discover the truth of the matter. They want to hold their own and rout the enemy. Hence the general loss of temper.

YOUNG WIFE.—"Before we were married, George, you never smoked in my presence." Young Husband—"I know it, my dear; and you never wore curlers in mine."

We have noticed that when you tell a woman that her daughter is just the image of her when she was that age, the mother looks pleased and the daughter looks scared.

A CHICAGO young woman was once observed to be afraid of that girl must indeed be a strange kind of a girl who could say conscientiously that she did not like a fuzzy mustache.

HOW FAMOUS RULERS DIED.

HENRY II. of Leon died of poison unless you remember to have them thoroughly examined twice a year, is the advice given by a jeweler. The constant friction wears out the tiny gold points that hold the stones in place, and unless strict attention is paid to them they become loose in a very short time.

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