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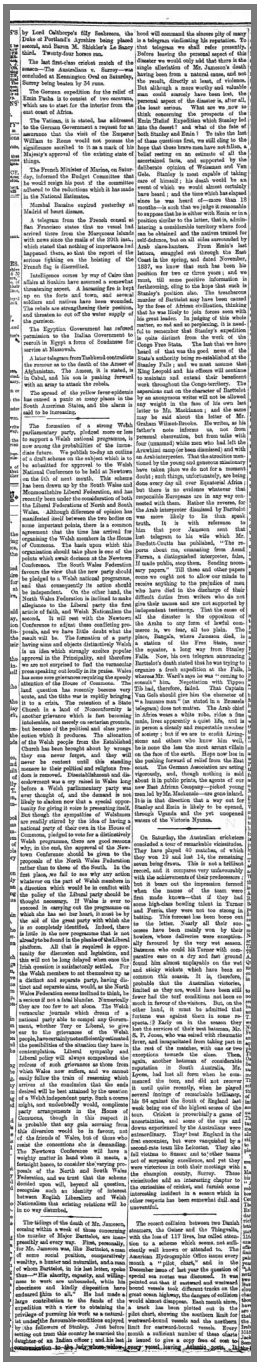

by Lord Colchester's fifty Sunbeams, the Duke of Portland's Argonius being placed second, and Baron M. Shuldam's Le Sancy third. Twenty-four horses ran.

The last first-class cricket match of the season—The Australians v. Surrey—was concluded at Kennington Oval on Saturday, Surrey being beaten by 54 runs.

The German expedition for the relief of Emin Pasha is to consist of two steamers, which are to start for the interior from the east coast of Africa.

The Vatican, it is stated, has addressed to the German Government a request for an assurance that the visit of the Emperor William to Rome would not possess the significance ascribed to it as a mark of his Majesty's approval of the existing state of things.

The French Minister of Marine, on Saturday, informed the Budget Committee that he would resign his post if the committee adhered to the reductions which it has made in the National Estimates.

Mumbal Damako expired yesterday at Madrid of heart disease.

A telegram from the French consul at San Francisco states that no vessel had arrived there from the Marquesas Islands with news since the mails of the 20th inst., which stated that nothing of importance had happened there, so that the report of the serious fighting on the isolating of the French flag is discredited.

Intelligence comes by way of Cairo that affairs at Zanzibar have assumed a somewhat threatening aspect. A harassing fire is kept up on the forts and town, and several soldiers and natives have been wounded. The rebels are strengthening their position, and threaten to cut off the water supply of the garrison.

The Egyptian Government has refused permission to the Indian Government to search in Egypt a form of headgear for sepoys at Masserah.

A later telegram from Tashkend mentions the success as to the death of the Ameer of Afghanistan. The Ameer, it is stated, is in Dabul, and is about to move forward with an army to attack the rebels.

The spread of the yellow fever epidemic has caused a panic in many places in the South American States, and the alarm is said to be increasing.

The formation of a strong Welsh parliamentary party, pledged more or less to support a Welsh national programme, is now among the probabilities of the immediate future. We publish to-day an outline of a draft scheme on the subject which is to be submitted for approval to the Welsh National Conference to be held at Newtown on the 5th of next month. This scheme has been drawn up by the South Wales and Monmouthshire Liberal Federation, and has recently been under the consideration of both the Liberal Federations of North and South Wales. Although differences of opinion live manifested itself between the two bodies on some important points, there is a common agreement on the part of both to secure the return to the Welsh members in the House of Commons. The basis upon which this organisation should take place is one of the points which await decision at the Newtown Conference. The South Wales Federation favours the view that the new party should be pledged to a Welsh national programme, and that consequently its action should be independent. On the other hand, the North Wales Federation is inclined to make allegiance to the Liberal party the first article of faith, and Welsh Nationalism the second. It will rest with the Newtown Conference to adjust these conflicting proposals, and we have little doubt what the result will be. The formation of a party having aims and objects distinctively Welsh is an idea which strongly excites popular support, and the Conservatives in Wales would be very much surprised to find the vernacular press speaking out loudly in its praise. Wales has some new grievances requiring the speedy attention of the House of Commons. The land question has recently become very acute, and the tithe war is rapidly bringing it to a crisis. The retention of a State Church in a land of Nonconformity is another grievance which is fast becoming intolerable, not merely on sectarian grounds, but because of the political and class opposition which it produces. The allocation of the Welsh Tithe Rent-charge to the Church has been brought about by wrongs which we never forgot, and they will never be content until this standing nuisance to their political and religious freedom is removed. Disestablishment and disendowment was a cry raised in Wales long before a Welsh parliamentary party was ever thought of, and the demand is not likely to slacken now that a special opportunity for giving it voice is presenting itself. But though the sympathies of Welshmen are readily stirred by the idea of having a national party of their own in the House of Commons, pledged to vote for a distinctively Welsh programme, there are good reasons why, in the end, the approval of the Newtown Conference should be given to the proposals of the draft scheme. We do believe that Wales is ripe for Home Rule. In the first place, we fail to see why any action whatever on the part of Welsh members in a direction which would be in conflict with the policy of the Liberal party should be thought necessary. If Wales is ever to succeed in carrying out the programme on which she has set her heart, it must be by the aid of the great party with which she is so completely identified. Indeed, there is little in the new programme that is not already to be found in the platform of the Liberal platform. All that is required is opportunity for discussion and legislation, and this will not be long delayed when once the Irish question is satisfactorily settled. For the Welsh members to set themselves up as a distinct and separate party, having distinct and separate aims, would, as the North Wales Federation recognises, be nothing short of a series if not a fatal blunder. Numerically they are too few to act alone. The Welsh vernacular formula which forms of a national party able to compel any Government, whether Tory or Liberal, to give ear to the grievances of the Welsh people, have certainly not satisfactorily estimated the possibilities of the situation they have in contemplation. Liberal sympathy and Liberal policy will always compel from the redress of such grievances as those from which Wales now suffers, and we cannot easily imagine a more powerful lever with which to effect the end in view than the one devised will be best attained by the creation of a Welsh independent party. Such a course might, not undoubtedly would, compliment party arrangements in the House of Commons, though in this respect it is probable that any gain accruing from this diversion would be in favour, not of the friends of Wales, but of those who resist the concessions she is demanding. The Newtown Conference will have a weighty matter in hand when it meets, a fortnight hence, to consider the varying proposals of the North and South Wales Federation, and we trust that the scheme decided upon will, beyond all question, recognise such an identity of interest between English Liberalism and Welsh Nationalism that their working relations will be in no way disturbed.

The failings of the death of Mr. Jameson, coming within a week of those concerning the murder of Major Bartelot, are inexpressibly sad every way. Plain, personally, for Mr. Jameson was, like Bartelot, a man of some social position, comparatively wealthy, a hunter and naturalist, and a man of whom Bartelot, in his last letter, spoke thus—"His sobriety, capacity, and willingness to work are unbounded, while his disposition is the most amiable and unassuming I have ever met." He had made a large contribution to the funds of the expedition with a view to obtaining the privilege of pursuing his work as a naturalist under favourable conditions enjoyed by the followers of Stanley. Just before setting out from this country he married the daughter of an Indian officer; and his last communication to the Relief Committee, which

lord will command the sinews pity of every is a telegram vindicating his reputation. To that telegram we shall refer presently. Before hearing the personal aspect of this disaster we would only add that there is the single alleviation of Mr. Jameson's death having been from a natural cause, and not the result, directly at least, of violence. But although a more worthy and valuable man could scarcely have been lost, the personal aspect of the disaster is, after all, the least serious. What are we now to think concerning the prospects of the Emin Relief Expedition which Stanley led into the desert? and what of the fate of both Stanley and Emin? To take the last of these questions first, we still cling to the hope that these brave men have not fallen, a belief resting on an estimate of Stanley's character, and confirmed by the unanimous opinion of Wissmann and Van Gele. Stanley is most capable of taking care of himself; his death would be an event of which we would almost certainly have heard; and the time which has elapsed since he was heard of—more than 18 months—is such that we judge it reasonable to suppose that he is either with Emin or in a position similar to the latter, that is, administering a considerable territory where food can be obtained and the natives trained for self-defence, but on all sides surrounded by Arab slave-hunters. From Emin's last letters, smuggled out through the East Coast in the spring, and dated November, 1887, we know that such has been the position for two or three years; and we have no reason to suppose any change in it beyond, adding to the hope that such is Stanley's position also. The treacherous murder of Barttelot may have been caused by the fear of African civilisation, thinking that he was likely to join forces soon with his great leader. In judging of this whole matter, as sad and as perplexing, it is needful to remember that Stanley's expedition is quite distinct from the work of the Congo Free State. The last that we have heard of that was the good news of the State's authority being re-established at the Stanley Falls; and we have also reason to believe that the officials are still zealous in carrying out their beneficent work throughout the Congo territory. The aspersions cast on the character of Barttelot by an anonymous writer will not be allowed any weight in the face of his own last letter to Mr. Mackinnon; and the same may be said about the letter of Mr. Graham Wilson-Brooke. He writes, as his father's note informs us, not from personal observation, but from talks with four (unnamed) white men who had left the Aruwimi many (or been dismissed) and with an Arab interpreter. That the attention mentioned by the young and generous missionary have taken place we do not for a moment doubt; such things, unfortunately, have been done every day all over Inner-tropical Africa; but we do not for a moment believe that respectable Europeans are in any way connected with them. Rather the reverse, for the Arab interpreter dismissed by Barttelot was more likely to lie than speak truth. It is with reference to him that poor Jameson sent that last telegram to his wife which Mr. Burdett-Coutts has published, "The reports about me, emanating from Assad Farran, a distinguished interpreter, false. If made public, stop them. Sending necessary papers." Till these and other papers come we ought not to allow our minds to receive anything to the prejudice of men who have died in the discharge of their difficult duties from writers who do not give their names and are not supported by independent testimony. That the cause of all the disaster is the opposition of the Arabs to any form of lawful commerce, we have long known. Emin Pasha, whose presence died, is a relation of the Free States, near the equator, a long way from Stanley Falls. Now, his own telegram announcing Barttelot's death stated that he was trying to organise a fresh expedition at the Falls, whereas Mr. Ward's says he was "coming to assault" him. Negotiations with Tippoo Tib had, therefore, failed. That Captain Van Gele should give him the character of "a famous man" (as stated in a Brussels telegram) does not matter. The Arab chief in Africa wears a white robe, rides a fine mule, lives apparently a quiet life, and is looked up to by the natives as a person of authority; but if we are to credit Livingstone and others who know him well, he is more the less the most savage villain on the face of the earth. Hope now lies in the pushing forward of relief from the East coast. The German Association are acting vigorously, and, though nothing is said about it in public prints, the agents of our new East African Company—picked young men led by Mr. Mackenzie—are quite inland. It is in that direction that a way out for Stanley and Emin is likely to be opened, through Uganda and the yet unopened waters of the Victoria Nyanza.

On Saturday, the Australian cricketers concluded a tour of remarkable ministration. They have played 40 matches, of which they won 15 and lost 14, the remaining seven being drawn. This is not a brilliant record, and it compares very unfavourably with the achievements of their predecessors; but it bears out the impression formed when the names of the team were first made known—that if they had some high-class bowling talent in Turner and Ferris, they were not too strong in batting. This forecast has been borne out by the results of the season. The matches have been easily won by their bowlers, whose deliveries were exceptionally favoured by the very wet season. Saunders who could hit Turner with comparative ease on a dry and fast ground found him almost unplayable on the wet and sticky wickets which have been so common this season. It is, therefore, probable that the Australian victories, limited as they are, would have been still fewer had the turf conditions not been so much in favour of the visitors. But, on the other hand, it must be admitted that fortune was against them in some respects. Of 7 tests played between they have won 3, drawn 3, and lost one match. A. J. Turner, who was seized with rheumatic fever, and incapacitated from taking part in the rest of the matches, with one or two exceptions towards the close. Then, again, another batsman of considerable reputation in South Australia, Mr. Byrne, had lost all form when he commenced the tour, and did not recover it until quite recently, when he played several innings of remarkable brilliancy. His 58 against the South of England last week being one of the highest scores of the tour. Cricket is proverbially a game of uncertainties, and some of the ups and downs experienced by the Australians were extraordinary. They beat England in the first encounter, but were vanquished by a single wicket in the second test. They went all visitors to Sussex and to other teams act of surpassing excellence, and yet they were victorious in both their meetings with the champion county, Surrey. These anomalies add an interesting chapter to the curiosities of cricket, and furnish some interesting incident in a season which in other respects has been somewhat dull and uneventful.

The recent collision between two Danish steamers, the Geyser and the Thingvalla, with the loss of 117 lives, has called attention to a scheme which seems not sufficiently well known or attended to. The American Hydrographic Office issues every month a "pilot chart," and in the December issue of last year the question of special sea routes was discussed. It was pointed out that if eastward and westward vessels took different tracks on the great ocean highway, the dangers of collision would be greatly reduced. Accordingly a pilot chart has been plotted out in the pilot chart, showing the southern limit for westward-bound vessels and the northern limit for eastward-bound vessels. Every month a sufficient number of these charts is issued to give a copy free of cost to [illegible] vessel, having [illegible] ports. [illegible]

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