

regularly report to me; and I am in constant communication with the Sandwich Islands, Japan, coastal China, Batavia, Burma, Singapore, Rangoon, Aycab on the E. I. Peninsula, all parts of India, Ceylon, Afghanistan, Persia, Arabia including Aden, Palestine, East Africa, Madagascar, and the Mauritius; and all ships that navigate waters within the limits named give me assistance."

"In addition to supplying weather reports?"

"All the shipping companies of the world furnish me, with reports on ocean currents; for, from the Brisbane office, we supply shipmasters with current-bottle papers. These can be supplied in no less than eight different languages—English, French, German, Norwegian, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Dutch. In connection with ocean currents I may tell you that it has been arranged for me to read a paper on the subject before the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science about December next. And so far as ocean currents are concerned you must understand that my work embraces the whole world."

"What percentage of correct forecasts do you average, Mr. Wragge?"

"We claim 85 per cent. for all Australia; the remaining 15 per cent. being only correct in part. But for New Caledonia, ever since cable communication has been established, the forecasts have been absolutely correct, and the same remark almost applies to New Zealand."

"What is the reason for christening storms by name?"

"In order to avoid confusion."

"Was it ever done before?"

"Never; in no part of the world. But I believe the practice will become universal, because shipmasters especially have warmly commended it. By naming tropical storms in Greek, and antarctic storms in Hebrew, we have something definite to locate. In future people need not say, 'Not the last storm but the one prior to that, &c.' but they will readily associate any storm which, say, causes a wreck by its right name, which is recorded for all time."

"But you will soon come to the end of the Greek and Hebrew alphabets."

"Even so. But we have Arabic and other languages to take their places."

"The teapot being 'squeezed' to no farther purpose, Mr. Wragge suggested an adjournment to his own 'den'; and thither we repaired."

"Why, it's a ship's cabin!" was the involuntary ejaculation.

"Fitted exactly like one," Mr. Wragge laughingly rejoined. "You see I cannot give up my seafaring habits even at home."

A bunk fitted upon a nest of drawers in the orthodox fashion and the cotter of a spacious state-room completed the illusion. "This," said the meteorologist, opening a door in the corner of the cabin, "is my dark room for developing photographs."

"Then you are an amateur photographer?"

"Yes; I am very fond of photography, and I find it not only interesting but useful."

"Do you never take any recreation?"

"Of course I do."

"And your favourite relief from work is—?"

"Trenching my garden on bright moonlight nights!"

"Oh!"

"Life is too short to idle," was Mr. Wragge's terse conclusion.

A lesson in weather observation; some useful hints on electricity as applied to automatic instruments; a few generalities on the marvellous accuracy which the science of meteorology has attained, and the writer bade adieu to the *savant* whose researches are made in any field, outside his own particular branch, for the advancement of science generally.

I have written of Mr. Wragge's home and of his work; perhaps, therefore, this paper will be incomplete without a brief sketch of the man in person. He is upwards of 6 ft. in height, and his average weight from year's end to year's end is 9st. 3lb. He has a fair complexion and fair beard, trimmed Vandike fashion; and in temperament he is a jovial, hail-fellow-well-met "white" man. Not an atom of "side" does he carry, and to peer and peasant he is the same—hearty courteous—and every Queenslander every Australian, should cry, for the good of his country, *Vivat Wragge!*

### An Improved Unicycle.

The wheel shown in the illustration, patented by Mr. Robert Hendrich, Chicago, is designed to facilitate travelling at a high rate of speed, while being of comparatively durable and simple construction. The rim has a cushion tire, two outwardly curved webs from which form a casing or cage for the rider, the webs preferably forming spokes connected with central hubs, in which is a shaft on which is loosely hung a frame carrying a seat for the rider. In the forward lower end of the frame are also journals in which turns the crank shaft, with crank arms engaged by the feet of the rider in the usual way, the sprocket chains connecting with wheels on the main shaft on opposite sides of the seat and within the hubs, whereby the wheel is rotated.

The brake shoe is on the lower end of a vertically arranged fork, the upper end of each arm of which has a handle in easy reach of the rider, while springs on the fork arms normally hold the brake shoe out of contact with the rim. The wheel is held in upright



position at rest by two rods sliding in vertical guides on the frame, the lower forked ends of the rods being normally held out of contact with the ground by springs, and the rods being pressed down into the ground by means of handles at each side of the saddle. At the lower extremity of the frame is a basket to hold packages, &c., and connected with the basket is a rod on which is held an adjustable weight to counterbalance the weight of the rider on the seat. That the rider may readily pass in or out of the cage, one of the spokes on each side is connected with the hub by means of a hinge, the outer end of the hinged spoke engaging a keeper on the side of the rim by means of a spring latch. The steering is readily effected by the rider bending to one side or the other. —*Scientific American.*

### The Late Maori King, Tawhiao.

Tawhiao, the Maori King, died on Sunday, August 26, from influenza, in the 71st year of his age. He leaves no son to succeed him. The late king, whose portrait finds a place in this issue, was of very ancient lineage and the purest blood. He was able to trace an unbroken line of chieftain ancestry back 16 or 18 generations. He was one of the best known and respected Maori chiefs, and, though shown in our engraving in his full regalia, he rarely donned it of late years, and might be seen driving into the city of Auckland dressed as any other gentleman. The tattooing on Tawhiao was exceptionally fine, every line having to the Maori some special significance. The practice of tattooing is growing less common among the Maoris, but Tawhiao was probably one of the finest instances of the practice of the art.

According to Mennell's "Dictionary of Australasian Biography," Tawhiao, the second Maori King, son of Potatau (Te Whero Whero), the first New Zealand King, was originally called Matatara, and was chosen to succeed his father in June, 1860. In February, 1875, after years of hostility and estrangement, Tawhiao had an interview with Sir Donald McLean, Minister of Native Affairs, who informed him that the abandonment of the confiscated Waikato territory which he had demanded was quite out of the question. Tawhiao suggested that the Governor should meet him at Te Kuiti. After a considerable amount of negotiation the conference



THE LATE MAORI KING, TAWHIAO.

broke up without any definite agreement being arrived at. The Governor did not go to Te Kuiti; and though several chiefs assembled, Tawhiao held aloof, as his invitation was not responded to. In May, 1878, he had a meeting with Sir George Grey, who had become Premier of New Zealand, at Hikurangi. Sir George told him the Government would give him 500 acres of land near the grave of his father, would restore other lands to his people, would erect a house for him at Kawhia, and consult him as to surveys and roads. Tawhiao neither accepted nor rejected these proposals. On 6th May, 1879, Tawhiao, in company with numerous chiefs, had another interview with Sir George Grey at Kopua, where he utterly repudiated all compromise with Europeans. "All foreign innovations," he concluded, "must be swept away. Then there will be no evil." The discussion lasted several days, some of the chiefs rejecting the Maori King's claims and expressing their preference for the Queen and the Treaty of Waitangi. The conference ended fruitlessly, and Sir George Grey wrote to Tawhiao before leaving that he was not doing so in anger, but in sorrow, "because you have not been wise enough to accept the benefits offered to you, and because the hope which I have cherished for years, that I might be the means of placing yourself and your people in a condition of prosperity and peace, has been again deferred." In 1881 Tawhiao, to the surprise of all New Zealand, visited the confiscated territory in the Waikato, and was profuse in his professions of friendship towards the settlers, surrendering his guns and those of his party to the resident military officer of the district in token of peace. In January, 1882, Tawhiao visited Auckland, and was received with great cordiality by the colonial authorities. At the various entertainments given in his honour, he urged amity and just dealing and forgetfulness of past evils. He had a satisfactory interview with the Premier, Mr. (now Sir John) Hall. In 1884 Tawhiao visited England, having previously taken the pledge by Sir George Grey's desire. He arrived at Plymouth on 31st May, his object being to enlist the influence of the Queen in checking the aggressions of the New Zealand Government. The Maori King was successful in obtaining an interview with Lord Derby, then Colonial Secretary, who promised to forward a memorial to the Queen; but the tone ultimately taken up was that, New Zealand having been granted responsible government, the Colonial Office could not interfere in a matter eminently of local concern. Tawhiao and his attendant chiefs left England on their return to the colony on 22nd August, 1884. The King was much annoyed at not being received by the Queen personally, objecting to seeing only her shadow, as he called Lord Derby. Throughout his later career Tawhiao's attitude towards the New Zealand Government was one of passive protest to their land policy. In 1892 Mr. Cadman, the Native Minister in the Ballance Government, induced him to abandon even this and accept a pension of £225 per annum.

### A MATCHLESS ARTICLE

is very difficult to find in the present day, but from reliable sources we hear that for strength, purity, and excellence the new brand of Eucalypti Extract and Oil of Barclay and Sons bears out this assertion. For influenza it is not only a cure, but an actual preventive.—*Adv.*

### Miscellaneous Mail News.

From the latest English files to hand we take the following interesting items:—

The Post-Queen of Roumania, whose health has improved during the long sojourn in her old home, has penned a scrap of her autobiography in the form of a fairy-tale. It deals with the death of her only child. The mother is supposed to sit on the bank of a stream and bemoan her loss. The stream assures her that she would not wish her little one back again if she could see her joy.

The Duke of York opened the old Victoria Park Cemetery, which has been laid out as a public garden, and afterwards visited the Home for Jewish incurables. Of the 449 disused burial-grounds in London all but 172 have been turned into recreation grounds for the living.

An official gold collar and badge has been presented for the use of the lady mayoress of Manchester.

Lord Rothschild is training zebras to run in harness. One was driven in a dogcart through London streets.

The Chimney Sweepers Bill, which has passed the Commons, provides for the registration of sweeps, robberies having been committed by persons entering houses on the pretence that they were sweeps.

Hackney Marsh, 337 acres of meadow land by the river Lea, three and a half miles from the city, has been opened as an East London playground by Sir

some time ago saved the life of a baby when the room caught fire. The Fire Brigade sent a wreath for the little hero's funeral, and a card bearing the words "May heaven be his reward!" The little boy whom Clinton rescued also sent a wreath with the tender inscription, "He saved me."

The important question is to be tested whether persons who write or send turf telegrams to betting-houses can be proceeded against just as if they had been caught on the premises.

The returns show that on January 1 there were 92,067 persons in lunatic asylums in England, an increase of 2245, this following an increase of 1974 in the preceding year.

There has been an increase of late in rabies, but the Government decline to issue a simultaneous muzzling order, local authorities having the power to do so, as well as to seize and destroy dogs.

The backs of the garden-seats on London omnibuses are being filled up to stop the wholesale picking of ladies' pockets.

A man has appeared in Maiden Bradley claiming to be the rightful heir to the dukedom of Somerset. He claims to be Lord St. Maur, who, according to a tablet in the church, was killed 29 years ago by a bear in India. The claimant explains his absence by saying that he was taken prisoner by the Russians.

A Brixton draper was fined for employing two boys distributing handbills during school hours.

When an express arrived at Warrington, a woman's skirts, with money in the pocket, was seen clinging to the engine. It transpired that a woman had been knocked down by the train, but escaped with the loss of her garments and a fractured leg.

President's Carnot's remains were consigned to their niche in the Pantheon in the presence of the widow. £2000 has been unsuccessfully offered by an Englishman for the carriage in which the President was stabbed.

A young Frenchwoman's mania for kissing men has led to her arrest. She kissed men whenever she met them, in the street or elsewhere, and she even embraced the policemen who took her into custody.

A German officer is on his way to find an island in the Pacific, where he and his associates can live the life of monkeys, subsisting solely on fruits, and going naked.

A man aged 88 has been successfully operated upon for cataract at Willesden.

A woman in Kentucky, aged 96, has 432 descendants, including 19 great-grandchildren.

A lady near Dublin celebrated her 100th birthday, and was surrounded by members of her family, including great-grandchildren.

A widow who has just died in County Wicklow, aged 115, attributed her long life to her use of tobacco and snuff.

### New Publications.

The monthly publication for young people, *Our Boys and Girls Own Newspaper*, has been very judiciously decreased in size, superficially, but has doubled the number of pages it formerly had. It contains a large amount of reading matter which should be of interest to young folks—stories, matter for home-reading, puzzles, &c. It is published by W. and E. F. Keep, Park-street, Sydney.

*Scribner's Magazine* for August is a fiction number, and contains an admirable collection of short stories by such famous writers as T. Bailey Aldrich, H. C. Bunner, W. H. Skelton, &c.; while Octave Thanet continues his sketch of American types, "People that we Serve." Mr. Bunner in "French for a Fortnight," is amusing, and describes the adventures of a clergyman living with a French family near New York. Octave Uzanne's article, "The End of Books," is an original and entertaining peep into the future when the phonograph may take the place of type. "An Undiscovered Murder," by J. K. Sullivan, is a tale of great imaginative power. The number is beautifully illustrated, and both in letterpress and cuts exceeds the average issue of this now famous magazine.

The *Review of Reviews* for August has a very interesting character sketch entitled "Saint Ladas." Under this heading the proprieties and improprieties of the great national sport are discussed, and the relations of the Church to the Turf dealt with. Numerous illustrations and some caricatures accompany the sketch. "The Novel of the Modern Woman" supplies the key to a series of sketches concerning a number of the leading lady novelists of the day and their most recent literary productions. These include such well-known names as Sarah Grand, Mrs. Mona Caird, Mrs. Mannington Caffyn, and others. In this article a large amount of very interesting matter will be found, matter made more interesting by being accompanied by portraits of the ladies themselves. In other departments the present issue of the *Review* is fully up to the times, both in its illustrations and its letterpress.

"Vincentia" is the title of a rather pretentious-looking volume published in connection with St. Vincent's Ladies' College, Sydney. It is essentially a half-yearly record of school work; but, at the same time, it is something more, as it contains much excellent reading matter not pertaining to mere school work. It comprises about 80 pages in pamphlet form.

### A Sea Monster.

We published last week an account of what was believed, by many persons at Newcastle to have been a fight at sea between a whale and a sea serpent. Mr. Phillip Cohen, in regard to the affair, writes:—*Sir*,—In your issue of September 1st, your correspondent at Newcastle furnishes a description of a whale being attacked by a "sea serpent" near the vicinity of Nobbys and Redhead on Saturday evening last. There are frequent instances on record of similar attacks on whales having been observed at various times off the coast, and I myself have witnessed some of them. From the account given by your correspondent I have not the remotest doubt of the nature of the conflict. The whale in question was evidently attacked by two of its most remorseless enemies, viz., the thresher and his constant companion, the swordfish. Although the latter was not visible, doubtless he was therabout. Strange as it may appear, nevertheless it is a well-ascertained fact that these two sea monsters, although of widely distinct species, always travel in company, and conjointly make their ferocious and, in nearly every instance, successful attacks on the comparatively defenceless whale. What may have appeared to be the elongated head of the fabulous "sea serpent" was, in my opinion, nothing more than one of the enormous flukes of the thresher, which, with a part of its head, it extends about 6 ft. or 7 ft. above the level of the surface of the sea when the monster prepares to give effect to the terrific blow it is about to inflict on the rising head of the whale, on receiving which the latter "sounds," or frantically recedes to the depths below, to be met there by its other implacable foe the sword-fish, which, with its formidable pike, or sword, very often inflicts the coup de grace. In that case the expiring whale rises to the surface, to have its tongue devoured by the two voracious victors. What the onlookers of the scene near Newcastle saw on Saturday last was unquestionably not the "head and neck" of the "sea serpent," but the immense fluke and part of the head of a thresher in the act of inflicting its tremendous delivery on the head of a whale.

John Hutton. The grazing and other rights were secured for £75,000, of which the county council provided £50,000. It has been described as the finest playground in the world. In the long ago, the Marsh was the scene of an invasion of England, the Vikings having sailed up the Thames, and ascended the Lea, penetrating as far as Ware.

The famous vine at Hampton Court Palace, which is 126 years old, this season is bearing 1200 bunches of grapes. The fruit belongs to the Queen.

Sir Benjamin Richardson will be president of the Lady Cycling Federation, which aims at extending the pastime amongst the fair sex and advocating the rational dress for feminine riders.

The Home Secretary says cycles are carriages, and their riders should conform to the rule of the road.

While Sarah Bernhardt was performing in Glasgow a workman was so carried away that he rushed on the stage to protect her, as he believed, from her lover.

One of Byron's curls, duly authenticated, was offered for sale at a public auction in London. It was described as one of the poet's best-behaved curls.

Queen Elizabeth's prayer-book, bound in gold and enamelled, recently sold by auction in London, has been placed in the gold-room of the British Museum.

Experiments with the teleautograph were successfully tried between Dover and London. Facsimiles of the messages sent were reproduced, even to the dotting of i's and crossing of f's.

Mr. Pinkert, the inventor of a land-and-water tricycle, started from the French coast on his machine, intending to cross the Channel to Folkestone. He had a terrible experience. The wind was rough, he lost his way, and was seasick. In this condition he was picked up by a smack and landed at Boulogne.

A doctor in the Midlands recently performed successful surgical operations for snoring. Stroking a sleeper's face with the fingers will, it is said, stop snoring. In West Africa, before a girl is married, she is placed in charge of an old woman who cures her of snoring by closing her mouth. In Cincinnati University, young ladies are taught to "sleep elegantly."

The Queen's Prize at Bisley, consisting of a gold medal and £250, was won by Private Bennie, of Glasgow, a Scotsman also carrying off the second prize. The Prince of Wales's prize fell to a Welshman.

A technical school is to be established at Hammer-smith for teaching young women and girls trained in elementary schools the manufacturing by hand of decorative linen work and lace, with a view to creating a new industry.

Gambler's having made much of a statement that Oliver Cromwell indulged in horse-racing, someone has unearthed an Act passed under the Protector's authority, providing that those who made money by gaming at horse-races should forfeit double the money gained—half to the State, the other half to the loser.

A little hero named Clinton, aged 10, after rescuing a smaller boy from drowning near London Bridge, fell back into the water and was drowned. Clinton