

£30,000 worth of church property, has only £5,000 debt on the whole. It has big fire insurance and life assurance fund at its disposal, and these funds yearly add much wealth to the Connexion. Its ministers are now much better paid than formerly, and the 1884 Basis of Union would have secured them for ever if wisely adhered to. It is yet to be hoped that the remaining difficulties may be overcome, and as separation from Australia may be soon granted to the New Zealand Church, fresh overtures may be made and accepted by all concerned.

Home Mission work in the church—from the various reports submitted—is progressing favourably. Still the annual donations to this fund do not come in so fast as the cause demands. Much more might be done. The Foreign Missionary spirit has greatly revived in the colony. It was a matter for regret that the *Advocate*, the Connexional paper, was not thriving as well as could be wished. Its articles are vigorously written, but religious journals in the colony seem to die after a few years of publication. The cause of decay is difficult to detect.

The Conference as a whole was a great success. The visitors were delighted with Auckland, its lovely scenery, and fine weather. Many of the Ministers and laymen brought their wives with them, and many renewed old friendships formed in Auckland many years ago.

THE CHRISTCHURCH REGATTA.

THE annual carnival of the Christchurch Regatta Club took place this year on the Estuary at Sumner, and was one of the most successful the Club has ever had. The weather was delightful, the events interesting, and the public were there in force. Our photographic artist has succeeded in securing some fine 'shots' of the gathering.

A PATENT FOR BLOOMERS.

HEREAFTER, in the United States at least, the new woman will have to pay a royalty on her bloomers. Letters patent covering that up-to-date female wearing apparel have just been granted to Thomas Royce, an enterprising citizen of Brooklyn. The application for this patent was filed by Royce some time ago, when the bloomer craze was at its height. He did not claim to be the originator of this form of feminine trousseau, but based his right to letters patent on the ground that he was the inventor of some of the most essential features of the accepted style of bloomers. He also claimed to be the original applicant for a patent right on the article named.

The delay in granting letters patent to Royce was due to a long-drawn-out and rather humorous discussion among the Patent Office examiners as to whether female trousers, commonly known as bloomers, were patentable. The interesting point in connection with the granting of this patent was the official decision and recognition of the word 'bloomers,' it being held that the term was of novel American origination, without regard to the apparel of females of the Old World or ancient times.

A MONTANA CRITIC ON 'CLEOPATRA.'

THE play of 'Cleopatra' was written by a man named Shakespeare, so he claims, but Ig. Donnelly says that Shakespeare is a liar. Shakespeare is dead and Donnelly can make his bluff stick. Cleopatra lived in Egypt, Africa. We give her full post office address to keep our contemporaries from saying that we are claiming her for our own—the Gallatin valley being called the Egypt of America. Cleopatra was a gay girl. The bull train was the only means in communication with the outside world in her day, and she didn't have to give afternoon teas to keep in the swim. Bloomers were not a fad. In fact, very little clothes of any kind were necessary.

There being no danger of early frost, the folks there did not have to tie up their feet in gunny sacks and shovel a path to the machine when they thrashed their barley crop. As we have before remarked, Cleopatra was a trifle gay. She met Antony at a dance given in the schoolhouse and she straightway made a mash on him. Antony had once won to his credit, but as she was back east at a place called Rome he got a little gay himself. Things were coming his way like a three-time winner. He took Cleopatra to all the dances, candy pulls and school entertainments in the neighbourhood, and none of the home boys were in it for a minute. He told Cleopatra that his people back in the States were great.

'Why,' said he, one day, 'my people back in Mizoury are way up.'

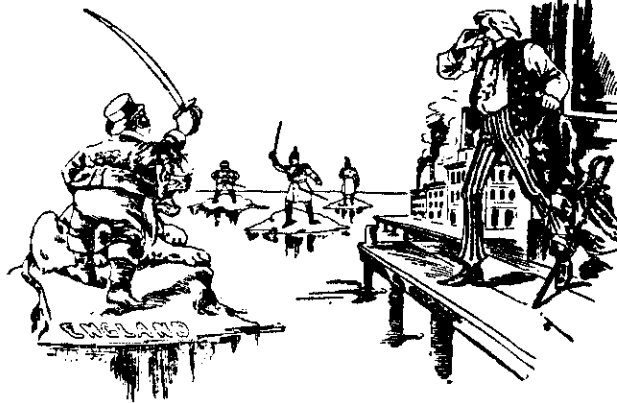
'Are they?' said Cleo.

'Well, I should smile,' said Antony, lowering his voice until it was music to her ear. 'Purt nigh nearly every gol darn one of 'em have got a gold fillin' in her teeth.'

Antony's wife in the States died about this time and he had to go home. While he was back there visiting around and telling stories about the big crops they raised by irrigation on the Nile, he married another girl just to please a brother of hers whom Antony used to be chummy with, but who was now working his farm on shares with the railroad and an eastern loan company. His name was Caesar at the time, but it is probably

Dennis now, for they introduced the cash system in all the stores at that place.

Antony didn't have the nerve to bring his wife back with him. So he gave her a song and dance about not having his house chinked up, and promised to send her a second class ticket over the Burlington in the spring.



UNCLE SAM: 'I reckon I'll take off these war trappings and get in trade again.'—*Exchange.*



TURKEY HAS MADE AN ALLIANCE WITH RUSSIA.
(From the Chicago Times-Herald.)

Caesar got onto Antony through a local paper, which gave several columns of its space to young contributors in order to make things lively in the neighbourhood. This contributor happened to be jealous of Antony, and he got even through the paper. Caesar came out on a cut rate ticket purchased at Kansas City, and Antony, who was a member of the militia company, dropped out to this and a rusty United States cavalry sabre, dying a sure but slow death.

Before he did this Cleopatra made what she thought was a foxy play, by sending word to Antony that she had committed suicide. She thought this would cause him to rush to her side with a stomach pump. But Antony didn't trust. He pulled out his sabre, and, making a grand stand play, fell on it. Not having any clothes on and being a heavy man, the sabre succeeded in cutting a large-sized gash into his vital system. He died a lingering death to the tune of 'The Band Played On.' Cleopatra, hearing of this, gets a tarantula, which strings her, and then she gracefully floats out of existence.

Antony is buried at the expense of the county. The committee of one hundred kick at this, for it is a tax-paying time, but congratulate themselves that it is cheaper than a murder trial and an acquittal. This is the sad story of Cleopatra and Antony, leaving out some of the dry details, wherein red lights and several other things, excepting clothes, figured.

A certain steamship company in New York, in consequence of the demand for free passes and cheap rates from 'industrial-looking' men, has had the following Biblical quotations printed:—

'Thou shalt not pass.—Numbers xx., 18.
'The wicked shall no more pass.—Nahum i., 15.
'None shall ever pass.—Mark xxiv., 10.
'Though they roar, yet can they not pass.—Jeremiah x., 23.
'Suffer not a man to pass.—Judges iii., 26.
'So he paid his fare and went.—Isaiah l., 8.'

Applicants for free trips are shown these selections, and as a result either give up begging or 'pay the fare and go.'



PRESIDENT KRUGER OF THE TRANSVAAL
REPUBLIC.

(From a cartoon published in a South African paper.)

PRESIDENT KRUGER: 'Neither of you geese laid that golden egg. It was ours before you came, and ours it shall remain.'



AN EXTREME MEASURE.

'What was the trouble between you and young Mr. Softy?'

'Why he said his brain was on fire, and I broke a hand grenade over his head.'



JOHN BULL: 'Well, I'll be blowed!'