

AFRICA.

A divorce decree has been granted against Alfred Vanderbilt, the well-known millionaire, who is now in England, on the petition of his wife.

Montgomery, a cashier of the Alleghany National Bank at Pittsburg, charged with absconding with £27,000 belonging to the bank, pleaded that he was "money mad." The bank has suspended payment.

The conference of the two Houses in Washington, relating to the Post Office subsidy, accepted the Senate's amendment providing a subsidy to carry the mail to Japan, China, Australia, South America, and the Philippines. The House of Representatives, however, threw out the Subsidy Bill.

National Duty and Ideals.

President Roosevelt, in welcoming at Washington the members of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, attributed the great and peculiar role Methodism had played in American national life to Methodism's essential democracy and the scope it gave to individual initiative and independence.

After emphasising the importance of building up the spiritual and moral side of national character, he eulogised the woman doing her full duty in relation to wifehood and motherhood by rearing plenty of healthy children. These should be devoted to high ideals, and everything constituting the right type of family life, and courage, unselfishness and other qualities of true citizenship should be inculcated.

The Panama Canal.

Mr. W. H. Taft, American Secretary of State for War, who has recently visited Central America, reports that the construction of the Panama Canal is proceeding at a satisfactory rate.

He anticipates that the excavation will be completed within four years.

The Indiana Horror.

The inquest on the bodies found on Mrs Guinness' farm at La Porte, Indiana, where many victims were murdered and buried, has been concluded.

In his report the coroner states that Mrs. Guinness was burned to death as the result of felonious homicide, the perpetrator being unknown.

The grand jury has indicted the man Lamphere, who had been employed on Mrs. Guinness' farm at La Porte, Indiana, on a charge of murdering Mrs. Guinness and her children, also for incendiarism, and for being an accessory to the murder of Mrs. Guinness' former husband.

Hindoo Revolutionaries in Canada.

The Vancouver correspondent of "The Times" reports that three educated Punjabis and Bengalis are directing a revolutionary school at Millside, near New Westminster.

Indians on the Pacific Coast, he says, contribute money, and the seditious movement in India is directed through Vancouver.

A Labour "Protest."

Members of an American Labour union, as a protest against the employment of non-unionists, blew up and partly demolished a new steel bridge on the New-Haven-Hartford railway at the town of Bronx.

They were frustrated in an attempt to blow up another bridge on the Bronx River, and when pursued by the authorities the fugitives dropped ninety pounds of dynamite into the river.

Trading Facilities.

The Senate at Washington has ratified conventions between America and Japan for the protection of inventions, designs, trade marks, and copyrights belonging to Americans and Japanese against fraudulent imitations.

The object of the conventions is to facilitate trading in Chinese and Korean markets.

Abyssinia and Italy have signed a convention, leaving the Lugh territory to Italy, and also conceding other important rights in return for the payment of £120,000 as compensation.

Six thousand landowners and prominent Egyptians, at a meeting held at Alexandria, resolved to cable to Sir Edward Grey, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, protesting against the continuance of the British occupation of Egypt and demanding a fulfilment of the promise to evacuate.

South African Federation.

Mr. Louis Botha (the Transvaal Premier), speaking at Potchefstroom, said that the closer union of the South African colonies was coming sooner than any of them expected.

The Premier added that he and his colleagues were going to the National Convention with an open mind, with the intention of securing equal rights for every white man.

Disorder in Morocco.

The Tangier correspondent of "The Times" reports that hostile Bennisassen tribesmen have surrounded Sultan Abdul Aziz's army, which is thus unable to proceed to Fez.

A deputation from Mulai Hafid (the Pretender) has arrived in the camp, and is negotiating for the surrender of the whole force.

PERSONAL NOTES.

The Prime Minister (Sir Joseph Ward) is this week making a tour of Taranaki.

The death is announced of Francis Coppee, a noted French poet.

The death is announced of Mr. Alfred Dampier, the well-known actor.

The Hon. Geo. Fowlds (Minister of Education) arrived in Auckland on Sunday, and will remain for about ten days.

Jan Kubelik, the famous violinist, met with an enthusiastic reception in Sydney on May 21st.

Professor F. S. Delver has been appointed Professor of English at the Berlin University.

Mr. Huxton, Mayor of Tenuka, is announced as a Government candidate for the Geraldine seat.

David Crewe, of Pahiataua, will be a candidate for the Pahiataua seat at next election as an Independent Liberal.

Mr. Fringle, General Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., at Singapore, is now on a visit to New Zealand.

A Sydney cable states that Mr. William Reid, of Dunedin, grand secretary of the I.O.O.F., has been elected Grand Sire of the Grand Lodge of Australasia.

It is probable that the Prime Minister (Sir J. G. Ward) will give a public address in Christchurch on political matters about the end of the present month.

Mr. T. E. Pearson, head gardener of the Tourist Department, has been appointed landscape gardener for the City of Auckland.

Dr P. F. McEvedy, vice-captain of the British football team, is expected to remain in the Dominion at the end of the tour, and take up the practice of his profession. He is a native of Nelson.

Mr. C. H. Reynolds, general manager to the Pacific Cable Board, who took ill while attending the Lisbon Telegraph Conference, died on May 22nd, aged 64 years.

His Excellency the Governor, Lord Plunket, accompanied by Lady Plunket and party returned from Kawau by the Daphne on May 19th, after an enjoyable holiday visit there of nine days.

Major Harry F. Head, R.A., the newly-arrived commandant of the Permanent Forces and Director of Ordnance, has expressed his firm belief in the wisdom of universal military training.

Chief Judge Jackson Palmer, of the Native Land Court, is due at Gisborne this week, to provide over a sitting of the Court. Six hundred cases are set down for hearing.

Sir Robert Stout (Chief Justice) arrived in Auckland from the South on Sunday. He is to lecture on "Long-fellow" at the Leys Institute on 28th inst.

Jan Kubelik, the celebrated violinist, and his wife, who are to give a series of concerts in Australia and New Zealand, were passengers by the Marama, which arrived at Brisbane from Vancouver on May 18th.

Mr. George Wilson, for some time past superintendent in Auckland for the Provident Life Assurance Co., left on May 22nd, via the West Coast, for Timaru, to take up his new appointment as district manager.

Lord and Lady Plunket will leave Auckland the second week in June to take up their residence at Palmerston North. His Excellency intends to pay weekly visits to Wellington during the Parliamentary session.

The Governor and Lady Plunket attended St. Matthew's Church, Auckland, on Sunday forenoon, in connection with Empire Day celebrations. They afterwards witnessed a march past of the volunteers.

Mr. C. Savage, who has held the position of foreman of works to the Devonport Borough Council for 31 years, and who is now taking up a Government position, was, on Saturday evening, presented by the Council employees with a silver watch, suitably inscribed.

At the annual smoke social of the Auckland Rowing Association on Saturday night, Mr. G. S. Mitchell, formerly hon. secretary of the Association for a number of years, was the recipient of a handsome photographic shield of members of the executive.

Mrs. Charlotte Sievers, widow of the late Mr. August Sievers, passed away at her residence, Wellington, on Saturday morning. The late Mrs. Sievers arrived in Wellington with her husband in the year 1848 in the ship Mariner, and had attained the ripe old age of 82 years.

An opinion is gaining ground in Wellington that the Mayor (the Hon. T. W. Hislop) will be a candidate for a seat in opposition to Mr. F. M. B. Fisher, M.P. It is also stated that though Mr. Hislop was an opponent of the late Mr. Seddon, he can see his way to support Sir Joseph Ward.

Mr. L. R. Phillips, president of the Auckland provincial executive of the New Zealand Farmers' Union, who is leaving for Canada shortly, has been presented with a set of silver-backed brushes by the members of the Auckland branch.

Middle Von Roit, of Berne, Switzerland, a well-known European authoress, is now on a visit to New Zealand. She has been a great traveller, and recently, when in South America, she spent some time in the island of Juan Fernandez, of Robinson Crusoe fame, where her brother was Governor for 27 years.

"The Times" Capetown correspondent telegraphs—A sign of gradual recovery is to be seen in the fact that South African products last year showed an increase of £1,250,000 on the previous year, while the Cape exports of staple animal and vegetable products have increased by £2,750,000 between 1903 and 1907.

Another trade commissioner, Mr. Ben. H. Morgan, secretary of the Manufacturers' Association of Great Britain, arrived at Wellington, via Sydney, by the Moeraki on May 20. He is accredited as a special trade commissioner to inquire into the Dominion's requirements with a view to an expansion of trade between England and New Zealand.

Mr. L. B. Ewen, who died last week at his residence, Matangi, Waikato, was one of the early settlers in the Waikato, having arrived there with his parents in 1875. He subsequently took up land at Matangi, and up to the time of his death was engaged in farming pursuits. Mr. Ewen was 52 years of age, and was born at Pannure.

A Maori named Makomako, over ninety years of age, died at Kaiapoi, near Christchurch, on Monday. He claimed to have been alive when the Ruaparaha invaded Kaiapoi, and was connected with the old land transactions. It is stated that deceased witnessed the execution of one of the early deeds for sale of a large block of land in South Island.

Mr "Jack" London, the well-known American author, and his wife, arrived at Apia, Samoa, on the 7th inst., from Pago Pago, in the ketch Shark. Mr. London is on a trip round the world in his little craft, and has already visited many of the islands of the South Pacific. He will from Samoa proceed to Fiji and afterwards to New Zealand.

At the annual meeting of the Auckland branch of the New Zealand Institute of Journalists, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Chairman, Mr. W. S. Douglas; treasurer, Mr. A. E. Green; secretary, Mr. E. E. Muir; committee, Messrs E. W. G. Rathbone, F. Baxter, W. D. Lusty, E. Smith, F. W. Dougie, E. A. James, W. F. Whyte, F. Rollett, and the Rev. E. H. Wyatt.

At the close of the service in the Sacred Heart Church, Ponsonby, on Sunday last, the members of the St. Vincent de Paul's Society, Newmarket, presented the Rev. Father O'Donnell with a valuable souvenir, suitably inscribed, as a mark of gratitude for his generous donation of the proceeds of his recent lecture on "Ireland." Father O'Donnell, who has spent two months in visiting various parts of New Zealand, leaves by the Mona this evening for Sydney.

We have to record the death of a very old colonist in the person of Mrs. Elizabeth P. Taylor, wife of Robert Cecil Taylor, who passed away this morning at her residence, Sarsfield-street, Ponsonby, in her 77th year. Mrs. Taylor was the eldest daughter of the late Rev. J. Duffus, M.A., and arrived in the colony in the ship Daniel Watson, in the year 1848. She is survived by a husband and five daughters, one of whom is married to the Rev. E. J. McFarland, Vicar of St. Barnabas', Mt. Eden.

Mr. James Haxton, the well-known Wairarapa gentleman rider, is at present laid up in a private hospital at Wellington owing to an injury received by him while riding Lueretius in a race on the second day at the Marlborough Meeting. During the race a stone was cast up by one of the horses in front of Lueretius, and struck Mr. Haxton with great force in the eye, which was rendered wholly blind. The unfortunate rider was taken to Wellington, where he was placed in a hospital. The wound is understood to be somewhat serious.

Mr. A. Bullock, of the literary staff of the Auckland "Star," was, on May 21st presented by the staffs of the "Star," "Weekly Graphic," and "New Zealand Farmer," with a handsome silver tea and coffee service on the occasion of his approaching marriage. The presentation was made by the editor (Mr. T. W. Leys), who referred in the highest terms to the popularity which the recipient had won for himself during his connection with the firm, and voiced the feelings of all present in wishing him all happiness and prosperity for the future.

Arrangements have been made for a visit to the Dominion of Pastor Thomas Spurgeon. Mr. Spurgeon's past work in Auckland has left a broad and indelible mark. After he terminated his very successful pastorate at the Tabernacle (for the building of which he was responsible), Mr. Spurgeon acted as evangelist to the Baptist Union of New Zealand with gratifying success. He has now entered into an engagement with the Union to again take up this office, for the work of which he proved himself so exceptionally fit. The engagement is for a year. Mr. Spurgeon, who is expected to arrive early next year, intends to bring his wife, son, and daughter with him.

A golden wedding, attended by more than usually interesting circumstances, was celebrated in Wellington the other day by Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Marshall. As far back as 1840, Mrs. Marshall landed in Wellington with her parents, in the ship London. Mr. Marshall arrived at Auckland in 1848 as a member of the band of the 65th Regiment, and soon afterwards moved down to Wellington. He was the first bandmaster of the Wellington Artillery Band (now known as the Garrison Band). With the exception of a trip to England in 1863, on the ship Ida Zeigler, which was subsequently wrecked near Napier, and a short stay in Queensland, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall have had their home in New Zealand. They have six children living.

LONDON, April 10.

Mr. J. Sutherland Ross, eldest son of Mr. John Ross, of Murven, Highgate, and Dunedin, New Zealand, was married yesterday (April 9th) to Miss Marjorie Amy Inkster, eldest daughter of Mr. S. Macaulay Inkster, M.D., of Broomhill Lodge, Sheffield. The wedding took place at Christ Church, Hampstead, the Rev. J. G. Williams, of Rammoor, Sheffield, officiating, assisted by the vicar of the parish. Mr. Ross is a prominent member of the New Zealand Association in London.