

People Talked About

An Old Pioneer.

Captain W. J. Barry is certainly one of the most striking figures among us. He is now in his 84th year, 74 years of which he has spent in these colonies. Arriving in Sydney in 1829, when the past century was but a babe in the hands of Father Time, he was one of the founders of Melbourne in 1835, and of Port Hesington, New South Wales, in 1839. He was in Auckland in 1837, when Queen-street was a fern-clad gully and not a white man's dwelling was to be seen. The personal experiences of such a man cannot fail to be interesting, and we



CAPTAIN W. J. BARRY.

are looking forward to the publication of the captain's book, now in the press, which embodies the history of his seventy odd years in the colonies. The work will be divided into three parts, the first being autobiographical, the second a historical retrospect of the early years of the colonies, and the third a collection of portraits and biographies of prominent colonists.

Back in England.

It was announced the other day by cable from London that the Duke and Duchess of Orleans had arrived in the British metropolis, the King having intimated that the door of England has been re-opened to



DUKE OF ORLEANS.

them. The duke, Prince Louis Philippe, is the head of the house of Orleans, and probably the chief claimant to the throne of France. He is the eldest son of the late Comte de

Paris, and was born in 1869. In 1890 he entered Paris, notwithstanding



DUCHESS OF ORLEANS.

the Expulsion Act of 1886, and claimed his rights as a Frenchman to undertake military service for his country. He was arrested, but shortly afterwards liberated. After the death of his father he received his supporters in London, and then removed to Brussels, as being nearer France. His marriage to the Archduchess Maria Dorothea of Austria was celebrated at Vienna, November 5, 1896. It was alleged that some of his followers were implicated in the conspiracies against the Republic in 1899.

One in a Hundred.

The Ameer of Afghanistan married five wives the other day, but the Emperor of China, a widower, has had



PRINCE LOUIS BONAPARTE.

A Royal Romance.

Love romances in Royal circles have been rather common of late, and now comes the story of another. According to advices from Budapesth, the Grand Duchess Helena, daughter of the Grand Duke Vladimir of Russia, recently eloped with a student at one of the Russian Univer-

sities, notwithstanding the fact that she was unofficially betrothed to Prince Louis Bonaparte, who holds the rank of general in the army of the Czar. The story goes that the young Grand Duchess was devotedly attached to the student, but cared nothing for Prince Louis, and feeling it hopeless—as it doubtless was—to obtain her parents' consent to a mar-

Chairman of the War Commission.

Great interest attaches to the selection of Lord Elgin as the chairman of the War Commission. The object of the Commission is "to inquire into the supply of men, munitions of war, equipment and trans-



LORD ELGIN.

port in connection with the South African War, and into the military

operations up to the occupation of Pretoria." Lord Elgin is a Canadian by birth, being born at Monkland, near Montreal, fifty-three years ago. He is the son of the eighth earl and his second wife, the fourth daughter of the first Earl of Durham. It is noteworthy that his ancestors played an important part in the history of the Empire, for his grandfather, the seventh earl, was the well-known Ambassador to Turkey, who collected the Elgin marbles, whilst his father was an eminent Viceroy of India, and Vice-Plenipotentiary to China.

An Agricultural Expert.

King Lewanika of Barotseland, who spent the first week of his visit to England amid the peaceful surroundings of a Dorsetshire village, displayed keen interest in British methods of agriculture. Once his royal gaze fell upon a reaping machine, and conversation upon other topics had to be suspended until the true inwardness of the contrivance had been explained. Then, as somewhat of a wheat-raiser himself, His Majesty said, "Well, that's the limit," or words to that effect, in the Barotse language. Nothing impressed the great chief more deeply than the exceeding fatness and power of our huge draught horses. After the leaner creatures of his own land the noble Clydesdale moved him to frequent expressions of surprise and admiration.

Composer of "Ben Bolt" Dead.

The death is announced in New York of Mr Thomas Dunn English, the composer of the well-known song "Ben Bolt." Mr English had at different times practised law, journalism, and medicine. Mr English was born in Philadelphia in 1819. In addition to the popular ballad "Ben Bolt" he wrote the "Book of Battle Lyrics" and several novels.



THE GRAND DUCHESS HELENA VLADIMIR.

riage with the humble lover, resolved on the desperate course of running away. The young couple got as far as Varsovy, but were there arrested. The young lady was taken back to her home, and the young man, who is said to be a member of one of the revolutionary committees at his university, is reported to have been sent to Siberia.