

artist, and her painting of the "Relief of Lucknow" was a work which called forth unfeigned admiration. That her death will in some measure weaken the cordial relations existing between England and Germany is more than probable, as her influence was always used in favour of the land of her birth. Be this as it may, her death will be widely regretted, not only in her adopted land, but throughout the length and breadth of the British dominions, as well as in the many courts of Europe with which she was connected by marriage and otherwise. Of late years she has lived in retirement at Friedrichshof near Cronberg, where she had a beautiful home.

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#### SWEDEN.

By the death of Adolf Erik Nordenskiod, the Arctic Explorer, the world of science has lost one who, some years since, contributed much good work to the branch he had at heart. Born at Helsingfors, in Finland, in 1832, young Nordenskoid at an early age made the best use of the fact that his father was chief of the mining department there by gaining a thorough knowledge of mineralogy, which stood him in good stead during the explorations of after years. It was while in the employment of the Government of Sweden that he undertook his world-famed exploring expeditions in the ice-blocked storm-tossed waters of the Arctic Ocean. The most successful of these was in 1878-79 when he first discovered the north-east passage while skirting the rugged, inhospitable northernmost shores of Europe and Asia. For this he received the rewards due to his intrepid courage and daring and wonderful powers of organization and endurance. He was not the man to remain long inactive, and a few years later he again plunged into the unknown ice wildernesses of the North, and with almost incredible exertions and the indomitable determination of the Northern sailor, he forced his ship through the terrible ice barriers on the east coast of Greenland, thus accomplishing a

task which the bravest explorers had previously failed utterly to perform. His experiences and discoveries are duly recorded in the many valuable works he has published on the subject from time to time.

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#### ITALY.

FROM Rome we heard recently of the death of Signor Francisco Crispi, an Italian statesman of world-wide reputation, at the advanced age of eighty-two. He commenced his career by assisting prominently in the Sicilian conspiracies, which culminated in the overthrow of the kingdom in 1848. The part he took in the Palermo insurrection caused him to have to seek temporary retirement in France. Again we hear of him content to fight desperately in the ranks under that great leader, Garibaldi, in the Sicilian Revolution of 1859-60, after he had himself been principally responsible for organizing it. As a conspirator he was unequalled, and his ability as a statesman was afterwards proved by the able manner in which as minister he facilitated the absorption of the two Sicilies by Italy. Italy owes much to this extraordinary man from the date of her first Parliament in 1861 to 1896, when he held the responsible position of Premier, Crispi has made his influence felt in a manner which it is given to few men to do. He was naturally endowed with great administrative ability, and loved nothing more than an opportunity to indulge it, and in Italy during his long term of statesmanship there is no denying the fact that ample opportunity was accorded him to exercise to the utmost his exceptional gifts.

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#### SOUTH AFRICA

LORD KITCHENER's late report from the seat of war mentions that "patience is necessary to overcome the insensate resistance of the leaders." This is a virtue which both the War Office and the troops engaged have had plenty of opportunity of acquired during the present war.