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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

The imposition of a special tax on foreigners residing in the canton of Zurich (to be levied in pursuance of a popular decision taken on Nov. 25th, 1923) will probably be the subject of another plebiscite, as the authorities are not in favour of this impost.

\* \* \*

The aviator Mittelholzer and his mechanic, who left Zurich on Dec. 18th and covered about 11,000 kilometres in 71 hours, have now returned home by rail, their machine having been left behind in Persia.

\* \* \*

Divisional Commander A. Bührer, of Schaffhausen, and his assistant have been placed under arrest by the local police on a charge of defalcations and misappropriation of public funds during the last few years.

\* \* \*

A Ticinese, named Pedrazzini, from Gerra-Versasca, is the lucky winner of a prize of half-a-million lire in an Italian lottery; he is at present an inmate of a hospital at Turin.

\* \* \*

A second-class railway carriage, that had been shunted on to a siding at a suburban railway station near Berne, has been discovered as having been for three weeks the haunt and depository of a young man who specialized in secretly robbing local churches for a livelihood; he has been sentenced to twenty months' imprisonment.

\* \* \*

A serious motor accident occurred last Sunday at Gommiswald, near Uznach. The car missed the edge of the road, and all the five occupants were thrown out. Two of the latter, Gemeinderat Schreiber-Gmür, from Amden, and a master baker named Tschirky, from Schmerikon, died from their injuries on the way to the hospital.

\* \* \*

A society has now been definitely formed in Zurich with the object of creating and maintaining a zoological garden in that town.

\* \* \*

**Tausendjährige Seide.**—Die Kirche von Zurzach birgt in ihrem Kirchenschatz einen kleinen Stoffresten von grossem Werte. Dieser sogen. Antilopenstoff scheint nach den Untersuchungen von Prof. E. A. Stückelberg in Basel ein Ueberrest zu sein von einem Seidenstoff, den der burgundische König Konrad (937—993) und seine zweite Gemahlin, Königin Mathilde von Frankreich, der heiligen Verena in Zurzach als Weihgabe dargebracht haben. Konrad war ein Sohn der in der Volkstradition sehr berühmten gewordenen Königin Berta, die das Volk spinnen lehrte. Der Stoff in Zurzach scheint orientalischen Ursprungs zu sein. Er wurde früher zum Bedecken des Heiligensarges verwendet, beim Bildersturm als Reliquie gerettet und 1549 inventarisiert als ein "südn gesprigelt tuoch." Jahrhundertlang lag er in einer kleinen Holzlade, diese in grösserem Holzschrein, und letzterer wohlverschlossen im silbernen Verenaschrein. 1923 wurde nun der Stoff in Basel photographiert und zwischen zwei Kristallplatten gefasst. (Volksblatt.)

## AUSLANDSCHWEIZER-TAG.

(Journée des Suisses à l'Étranger.)

For the eighth annual gathering, which takes place at Basle on Monday, April 20th, the City Swiss Club has elected as its official delegates Messrs. J. C. Rathgeb and C. A. Aeschmann.

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## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

*A Happy Easter to all our readers!*  
Instead of an Easter sermon by myself, I will give you a real treat:—

### MARIENLIEDER.

I.

Durch feuchte Wolken glänzt ein Sonnenstrahl,  
Der weite Raum, ein heller Freudenstahl.

Die Bäume stehen alle lichtbereit,  
Maria trägt ein weisses Feierkleid.

Sie steht und sinnt, die Blicke aufgetan,  
Und fängt mit einem Mal zu tanzen an,

Ein süsses, sanftes Gleiten hin und her,  
Die keusch erblühten Lippen lächeln schwer,

Die zarten Arme wölben sich empor.  
Gott Vater schreitet durch das Himmelstor

Und segnet ernst und mild der Erde Leib.  
Maria steht und ahnt sich zitternd: Weib.

II.

Maria wiegt ihr Kindlein zart,  
Der Weg ist steil, der Weg ist hart,  
Sie hebt das Kindlein an die Brust,  
Ach, bitter selbst des Lebens Lust.  
Der Abend tritt durchs Fenster ein,  
O dunkles Kreuz im goldenen Schein,  
O Angst der Welt . . . der Vater sagt,  
Das Kindlein lächelt froh bewegt.

III.

Früchte schwellen, reif das Korn,  
Rosen über jedem Dorn.

Durch der Felder hohe Zeit  
Geht Maria. Einsamkeit.

Hoch der Halm, die Aehre schwer,  
"Segne unser Brot, o Herr."

Tief im Gold des Mohnes Rot,  
"Rette uns vor Angst und Not."

Eine Wolke schattet leis,  
"Schütze unsres Lebens Reis."

Streich ein Lüftchen durch das Meer,  
Legt die Halme kreuz und quer.

Eine Sichel klingt und geht,  
Und Maria sinnt und schweigt,

Schaut, ob sie den Schnitter fänd,  
"Schenk uns, Herr, ein selig End."

IV.

Maria wandelt über Schnee,  
Ihr Kindlein starb in Kreuzesweh.

Der Himmel flammt in Abendglut,  
Färbt ihre Füsse rot wie Blut.

Sie löst die schweren Haare auf  
Und geht bergab und geht bergauf.

Ihr Antlitz ist so mild und weiss,  
"Eia popeia" singt sie leis.

"Eia popeia, Königskind,  
Die Nacht bricht an, kalt bläst der Wind.

Eia popeia, schlaf nun ein  
In meines Herzens dunklem Schrein.

Am Morgen schenkt die Sonne dir  
Aufs Neu der Krone Strahlenzür.

Du gehst in purpurgoldnem Kleid,  
In Glanz und Ehr und Herrlichkeit."

V.

In eines Kapellchens sanftem Rund  
Steht eine Maria, zu nächtiger Stund—

So geht die Sage—verlässt sie das Haus  
Und geht in den Gottesacker hinaus.

Und wo ein Kindlein schlummert im Grab,  
Neigt sie sich tief zu den Blumen hinab

Und küsst die Erde und flüstert leis,  
Da regt es und hebt es sich selber weiss.

Ein Englein schwebt an Marias Brust,  
Sie küsst es voll Liebe und Mutterlust.

Sie labt es still, denn der Weg ist weit  
Vom Grab bis hinauf in die Ewigkeit.

Dann lässt sie es ziehn und steht zur Stund  
In des kühlen Kapellchens sanftem Rund,

Und nur ein Blumenblättchen im Haar  
Verrät, dass sie draussen im Garten war.

MARIA BRETSCHER.

### To-day's Great Thought.

"We always stand a few paces too near ourselves and a few paces too far from our neighbours. Hence we judge men too much in the lump, and ourselves too much by individual, occasional, insignificant features and circumstances."—NIETZSCHE.

### Napoleonic Relics,

at least those relating to the Third Napoleon, have not all perished in the Baker Street fire of the other week. Quite a few interesting ones are kept at Arenenberg, and well do I remember my grandfather—a worthy Thurgauer—talking of the old days when Napoleon was a member of the Schützenverein and little thought of the future Napoleon III. Some of these relics seem to have tempted a burglar. *The Daily Express* (April 6) has the following:—

The criminal court at Frauenfeld sentenced a burglar named Ochsner to seven months' imprisonment for breaking into the famous Château Arenenberg, on Lake Constance, last December, and stealing the valuable historic relics belonging to the Napoleonic period.

The stolen articles, all of which have been recovered, included works of art, tapestries and paintings which the Empress Eugenie presented to the Swiss nation with the château in 1906. Ochsner, who did not know the value of his booty, aroused suspicion when he offered a valuable tapestry for £5 to an art dealer, who informed the police.

### English Poets and Switzerland.

*T.P.'s & Cassell's Weekly* (28th March):—

I should be glad to know which of Longfellow's poems are concerned with Switzerland; also of any other poets who have written about Switzerland.—T. W. L.-H., Anglesey.

[Longfellow's "Golden Legend" has one of its later scenes in Switzerland. Byron's "Manfred" has some scenes among the Alps, and there is his "Prisoner of Chillon" and passages in "Childe Harold." Browning has also "La Saisiaz," a rather long poem, the scene of which is on Lake Geneva. John Addington Symonds has written sonnets on Swiss subjects. Thomas Campbell's "Theodoric" is another poem on a Swiss story. There is Wordsworth's famous sonnet on the subjugation of Switzerland and several poems on Switzerland in his "Memories of a Tour on the Continent, 1820." "Monte Rosa," by Roden Noel, is a good modern poem; and many poets have scattered references to the Alps in their work.]

I thought the above might interest not a few of my readers, because it always gives additional pleasure to read foreign poets extolling the beauties of one's country.

### The late Dr. A. de Watterville

has the following necrologue in *Nature* (March 21st):—

Dr. de Watterville, whose death, at the age of seventy-eight, occurred in Switzerland on Feb. 24th last, was a prominent member of the medical profession in London between twenty and thirty years ago. A Swiss by birth, scion of one of the oldest families in Switzerland, he was an Englishman by education, and qualified for the medical profession. He specialised in neurology, and more particularly in electro-therapeutics, which he did much to establish on a scientific basis. His work on "Medical Electricity," which ran through two editions—the second in 1884—established his reputation as the chief authority on the subject in Great Britain. He specially insisted on measurements of current strength as the essential condition of a rational application of electricity, and led to the milliampère being adopted as the electro-therapeutic unit by the International Congress of Electricians.

It was, however, as editor of *Brain* that Dr. de Watterville found his chief interest and occupation. In 1883 he became associated as co-editor with the original founders and editors of this important journal—the late Sir J. C. Bucknill, Dr. Hughlings Jackson, Sir J. Crichton-Browne, and Sir David Ferrier—and in 1886 was appointed sole editor, when *Brain* became the official journal of the newly founded Neurological Society. This post he held until 1900. On his resignation the council of the Neurological Society, by unanimous resolution, paid him the following well-merited tribute:—

"The Council accepts with great regret Dr. de Watterville's resignation of the Editorship of *Brain*, and desires to take this opportunity of recording the deep debt of gratitude that the Society owes him for the way in which he has conducted the Journal for the past twenty years. The Council feels that parting with Dr. de Watterville is an event of great moment to the Society, for he has not only brought *Brain* to a high standard of perfection and secured