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AN OPEN-AIR BALL AT THE PEAK, HONG KONG

Copies of the Week

A SESSION OF EIGHT MONTHS.—The Session brought to a close on Christmas Eve lasted little short of eight months. No one would have complained of this if it had really been impossible for Parliament to get through its work in a shorter time; but the delay was not at all due to the amount of work that had to be completed. The original programme of the Government was certainly pretty extensive, but every part of it might have received due attention before the ordinary date of prorogation if members had had no aim but to get the business of the country satisfactorily accomplished. Unfortunately, a large number of our representatives had quite other objects. The Nationalists, as usual, sought only to bring discredit upon the Government, and in this enterprise they were joined by a good many English Radicals. Mr. Gladstone and the other leaders of the Opposition cannot be said to have directly sanctioned Obstruction, but they took good care not to protest against it, and must therefore bear some part of the responsibility for the results. The consequence of the incessant talk of the Parnellites and their allies was that many useful measures, which in ordinary circumstances might easily have become law, had to be withdrawn. We cannot describe as barren a Session in which the Local Government Bill was passed; but the country had a right to expect, and did expect, that at least some of the important practical questions, the consideration of which has been postponed, would be finally disposed of. The Obstructives are mistaken if they suppose that the Government is generally blamed for the present condition of public business. The real cause of the paralysis of Parliament is perfectly well understood, and it is beginning to be seen that the evil will soon have to be thoroughly grappled with. No one wishes that obstacles should be thrown in the way of real discussion; but most people are very decidedly of opinion that the House of Commons should secure for itself the power of stopping senseless chatter, the only object of which is to do mischief or to gratify personal vanity.

MR. GLADSTONE'S BIRTHDAY.—To-day (December 29th) Mr. Gladstone completes his seventy-ninth year. At such an age it seems almost a mockery to wish a man "many happy returns of the day," for he then is on the threshold of a period when, as the Psalmist says, "His strength is but labour and sorrow, so soon passeth it away, and it is gone." But Mr. Gladstone still possesses such a fund of vigour, both bodily and mental, that he may yet for several years be spared to play a conspicuous part in the social and political life of his countrymen. As regards age, activity, and commanding influence, the only foreign statesmen of modern times with whom he can be fitly compared are the late Emperor William and M. Thiers. Like them, too, he only became a really popular character as he drew near old age. For years he was appreciated by the classes, but it is only within the last decade or thereabouts that his name became a household word with the masses. Among English statesmen, as regards longevity and energy combined, Mr. Gladstone is most closely paralleled by Lord Palmerston. "Pam," too, did not become a popular idol till he was well on in the seventies. But none of these men, either foreign or British, possessed a tithe of that magnetic influence which Mr. Gladstone has for years exercised over his countrymen. It will suffice here to mention three instances. First, his persistent assaults on the Vatican during his enforced leisure of 1874-5, which caused him to be styled by the Nonconformists "the great Protestant champion," although these attacks were evidently inspired by chagrin at his defeat on the Irish University Education Bill. Secondly, his pamphlets and speeches in 1876-7 on the Bulgarian atrocities. These utterances had an immense and far-reaching influence, although here again his enemies asserted that he was actuated rather by a desire to discredit the Conservative Government than to benefit the Bulgarians. Thirdly, and most astounding of all, his conversion to Home Rule. It was as sudden as the conversion of the persecutor Saul on his journey to Damascus. Yet he at once carried with him (exclusive of the Parnellites) some two hundred M.P.'s; a majority of the inhabitants of Wales and Scotland; and nearly half the inhabitants of England. Whatever we may think of Home Rule, a man who can achieve such a result as this is truly a wonderful character.

THE ENGLISH DRILL SYSTEM.—When the Adjutant-General goes out of his way to raise the question as to whether the English Army is not being trained on an obsolete system, the public may well feel disconcerted. The general idea is that, among all the great pundits who look after the efficiency of the British forces, the Adjutant-General is the one who has special supervision of drill and discipline. If this be not the case, John Bull has a right to learn whom to blame for the state of things Lord Wolseley reveals in one of the monthly Reviews. He affirms, with the full weight of his official authority, that our system of drill is clean out of date; that our soldiers, instead of learning how to fight in battle with the greatest advantage to themselves, and the greatest loss to the enemy, are taught a mass of parade

minutiae which are as worthless as would be "the hand-grenade drill, or the management and handling of the pike." In a word, if Lord Wolseley speaks by the book, we have stood stock-still in this vital detail of military efficiency, while Continental nations have been advancing with giant strides. We cannot quite believe it; there is something in the article which gives one the idea of exaggeration, conscious or unconscious. Has not the drill-book undergone frequent revision during recent years—so frequent that both officers and men have been known to complain of having to learn only to forget their learning? It would be as extraordinary as unaccountable, therefore, if the Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant-General let these many opportunities for a wholesale remodelling pass unutilised. Lord Wolseley always has a rather sensational style when he poses as a reformer; he piles up the agony in the belief, apparently, that there is no other way of catching public attention. Possibly, therefore, his present deliverance is merely "pretty Fanny's way" of saying that some room for reform still remains in the parade-training of the British soldier. That is likely enough, and no doubt the Adjutant-General will take the matter in hand forthwith. Perhaps it would have been more in accordance both with discipline and patriotism had he done so in the first instance, instead of sending his brilliant discovery to a public periodical.

FRENCH MODERATES.—The Moderate members of the Republican party in France have had a good deal to say lately about the present condition of their country. The example was set by M. Challemeil-Lacour, whose existence Frenchmen had begun to forget, and he has been followed by M. Jules Ferry and other politicians of a like way of thinking. The Duc d'Aumale, too, writing from the point of view of a believer in Constitutional Monarchy, has expounded his views on the situation. There is certainly much truth in what has been said or implied by these authorities as to the manner in which the Radicals have played their part in the Republic. Unable or unwilling to adapt themselves to the actual circumstances of the nation, the Radicals have pressed for the adoption of measures which the majority of Frenchmen dislike, and have thus created a vast amount of alarm among the well-off classes and among ardent adherents of the Church. They have also overthrown Ministry after Ministry, so that all real power has passed into the hands of permanent officials, many of whom are accused of having taken advantage of the opportunity to indulge in some of the worst kinds of jobbery. The result is that a great many people who wished that the Republic should have a fair trial have been alienated from it, and are ready to accept even General Boulanger as a deliverer from intolerable evils. Unfortunately, there is little chance that the Moderates will be able to raise an effectual barrier against despotism. As a rule, they are men of rather cold temperament, with cut-and-dried theories, who have never shown the slightest aptitude for dealing with the problems in which France is most warmly interested. The Radicals, with all their faults, at least show some signs of vitality, and the like may be said of General Boulanger. The Moderates, on the contrary, are too apt to persuade themselves that they have done enough when they have delivered elaborate orations setting forth a series of abstract ideas on the proper conception of government. If they are to become a living power in politics, they must come into more direct contact with the people, and prove that their principles are capable of securing both order and progress. Of all countries, France is least likely to trust to the guidance of *doctrinaires*.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS.—In the country districts the men who are coming forward as candidates for the County Councils belong, for the most part, to the class which has hitherto administered rural affairs. If they are as honest and economical as they have been in the past, with an addition of energy supplied by the pressure of their constituencies, Mr. Ritchie's Act will, as far as the country is concerned, be a success. Concerning London, it is not possible to speak so sanguinely. This vast population—equal to that of a second-rate kingdom—still remains, and is likely to remain, a congregation of fortuitous atoms, scarcely endowed with a spark of the true corporate spirit. Men of high character and great aptitude for work abound, but they do not, as a rule, present themselves as candidates, because they are too busy with other matters; and it is quite possible that, even if they did come forward, their numerous engagements elsewhere would compel them to scamp their County Council work. Then, owing to the isolation in which Londoners live, and to their absorption in their own business or pleasure, the electors are usually quite in the dark as to the merits of the respective candidates. Any one who keeps his ears open in railway-carriages and other public conveyances must hear, with mingled regret and amusement, the child-like questions asked by intelligent men as to the aims and objects of the new system, and the readiness with which they receive (often from total strangers) contributions towards the biographies of intending candidates. This combination of ignorance and indifference necessarily tends to the benefit of Vestrydom; naturally the few men who "know the ropes" take advantage of the prevailing apathy; and there is, therefore, some danger that the new County Parliament for London may merely prove to be a large-paper and large-type edition of the discredited Board of Works.

THE HONOURABLE ARTILLERY COMPANY.—As searching investigation is to be made into the causes which led to the disarmament of the Hon. Artillery Company, public judgment should remain in suspense on that head. On the one hand, it is alleged that the Captain-General, the Colonel commanding, and the Adjutant attempted to ride rough-shod over the ancient corps; on the other, we have the distinct allegation that the regiment had fallen into a dangerous state of indiscipline. It may be that there were faults on both sides; too much despotism here, too much independence there, for officers and men to get on comfortably together. But be the origin of the disarmament what it may, the question remains as to whether Mr. Stanhope had justification for proceeding to such an extreme measure. He might quote as a precedent the action of the military authorities in India, when the Company troops refused to be handed over to the Crown. They were thereupon disarmed, as was most proper under the circumstances. But there is no analogy between that case and the present one, the Artillery Company being as willing as ever to perform its duties. Mr. Stanhope might have found a much better precedent in the case of a distinguished European regiment which, through one cause and another, fell into indiscipline while quartered in India some years ago. The General commanding the division had the officers brought before him, and, after soundly rating them, gave warning that, if matters did not soon mend, they would one and all be either drafted to other corps, or placed on half-pay. The idea of disarming the regiment was not even broached.

LAURENCE OLIPHANT.—Mr. Laurence Oliphant, who died last Sunday, was in many respects one of the most interesting figures of his generation. Few men of any period have been more largely endowed with the dangerous gift of versatility. His brilliant powers as a talker, his liveliness, and good humour made him a universal favourite in society. He possessed all the qualities of a first-rate diplomatist, and as a man of business he was held in respect by financiers whose judgment is not readily swayed by personal feeling. He had a passion for travelling, and when at any time he bade adieu to his friends, they could never be sure from what part of the world they would next hear from him. It could scarcely have been expected that the problems of religion would have a deep and enduring fascination for a man of this temper; yet it is certain that the profoundest impulses of his life were those of the religious enthusiast. At a time when he seemed to have before him a splendid career he abandoned all the external advantages of his position, and joined a wretched little American community, the head of which he served with the most absolute docility. Afterwards he built for himself a house on Mount Carmel, where he cheerfully undertook every kind of labour that seemed likely to be useful to his dependents and neighbours. His religious opinions were the strangest combination of mysticism and spiritualism, and seemed to him, oddly enough, not only to be compatible with the most exact conclusions of science, but to be the necessary complement of a thoroughly scientific conception of man and the world. As a writer, Mr. Oliphant did not secure for himself a place in the foremost ranks of the men of letters of his day; but all his books give evidence of unusual power. The best of them are shrewd, witty, and suggestive, and no one who reads them can help regretting that he lacked the patience and self-control which were necessary to enable him to do full justice to his talents.

FRANCE AND NEWFOUNDLAND.—Although the British public neither know nor take much interest in the matter, there is at all times a sort of chronic squabble simmering between us and France about the Newfoundland fisheries. The trouble dates back from the Treaty of Utrecht, made in 1713, when, although the French acknowledged our right to the possession of the island of Newfoundland, they persuaded our negotiators to concede to them the privilege of curing and drying fish on the north and west shores. This part of the coast has in consequence become practically a bit of French territory, and there has been from time to time much jealousy and quarrelling between the French and the colonial fishermen. A serious difficulty (neglected as usual by the Imperial Parliament, which was too much occupied with its own partisan struggles) occurred about two years ago, when the local Legislature forbade the sale of Newfoundland bait to foreign fishermen. Eventually, however, the French, with many murmurings, accepted this restriction. But now a fresh grievance has raised its head. Somebody has started a lobster-tinning factory on "the French shore," as it is called. M. Goblet declares that these workshops are injurious to his piscatorial compatriots, and that they "should be made to disappear." Without entering on the merits of this particular dispute, it must be evident to the unbiassed looker-on that John Bull has shown a foolish good-nature in permitting settlements on his territory to such a nation as the French, who, however revolutionary they may be at home, unswervingly pursue abroad the policy of Louis Quatorze. During the Napoleonic wars, instead of greedily striving to capture West Indian islands, our statesmen would have been more wise if they had "denounced" the Treaty of Utrecht, and had also declined to acknowledge for the future the French sovereignty over such places in the East Indies as Pondicherry and Chandernagore.

THE LUSHAI EXPEDITION.—If ever any country had justification for embarking in a policy of general annexation, British India is that land. She resembles a newly-arrived European in being subject to incessant stings by a multitude of microscopic pests, whose annihilation, could they only be caught collectively in her clutch, would be the easiest thing in the world. Scarcely have the echoes of the Black Mountain and Sikkim Campaigns died out of the air, when the troublesome tribes on the Chittagong frontier are in the field. It is the usual story, without a single variation. The Lushais swooped down on our territory to "murder and to ravish," after the manner of the immortal McTavish; and, there being no troops ready at the moment to hunt them back, they enjoyed excellent sport among the defenceless and timid villagers. This is by no means the first or the second time that they have displayed their ineradicable love of bloodshed and loot. In that respect they are much of a muchness with the Black Mountaineers, their conviction being, apparently, that raiding is the only suitable occupation for men. They do not, however, class hard fighting in the category of manly accomplishments: like the Tibetans, they prefer to "live to fight another day." It may be anticipated, therefore, that the column which is about to march against these incorrigible freebooters will have an easy job enough, so far as combatting armed resistance. But the Lushai country bears the reputation of being extraordinarily difficult, as well as fearfully unhealthy. On such ground the defence always has great advantages over the attack, through better knowledge of the locality and being case-hardened against disease. For all that, the campaign promises to be both brief and successful; it takes place, luckily, at the most healthy season of the year; while, at hill skirmishing, our Goorkhas are capable of giving a good account of any mountaineers. The perplexing question is as to what should be done after the Lushais are crushed. Annexation looks the most humane, as well as the most politic course; but Lord Lansdowne might not care to signalise the beginning of his reign by a proceeding of that sort.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGES AND THE STATE.—Mr. Goschen has definitely promised that aid shall be granted by the State to the provincial University Colleges, so many of which have lately come into existence. He declines, however, for the present to commit himself to any particular scheme for the fulfilment of his intention; and no doubt it is right that the matter should be thoroughly considered before important steps are taken. Financially, some of these colleges are in a very bad way, and it would never do for the State to bolster-up institutions which do not seem to meet any very urgent local need. The Government should interfere only in the case of colleges which are obviously discharging a useful function, and which are supported with some liberality by the people of the town and district for whose benefit they have been created. In such cases there can be no doubt that the money granted by the nation will be well spent. A large number of persons are now anxious to secure for their children a University training, and it is for the good of the country that their wish should be gratified. University colleges provide exactly the kind of instruction that is wanted, and have already sent forth many young men and women well equipped for the work of their lives. It may be said that if these colleges are so very useful they ought to be self-supporting; but it is unreasonable to expect that great educational establishments shall be able to maintain themselves by means of fees alone. The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge are splendidly endowed, and so are the chief Universities of America. The Scottish Universities receive a large sum annually from Parliament, and Germany and France never hesitate to grant money which can be shown to be necessary for the promotion of what is called the higher education. In helping the best of the University colleges, therefore, the Government will not be acting on an untried principle, and we may anticipate that much good will result from their liberal and enlightened policy.

CHRISTMAS OUT OF TOWN.—Those whose duties cause them to be acquainted with the inner life of commercial and manufacturing establishments must have noted a growing tendency on the part of the better-paid employés during the last few years to spend the great winter festival in the country. Formerly, people who habitually tried to get out of the range of the London smoke at Easter, Whitsuntide, and on St. Lubbock's Day, were content to stay at home at Christmas, when, however favourable the weather may chance to be, the days are certain to be short. But railway facilities have now so accustomed people to travel, that even those persons whose salaries are but small manage to compass this winter outing. Thousands of so-called Londoners, it must be remembered, are either provincial-born or are of near provincial origin, and to these persons it is a natural and pleasant thing, at a time when feasting and mirth prevail, to visit places which are still tenanted by their kinsfolk and acquaintances. Their country cousins are equally fond of returning the compliment during the period of early autumn. This year, moreover, in cases where employers were complaisant, Christmas Day fell most conveniently for holiday-making purposes; and not a few fortunate folks enjoyed nearly a week of vacation. Indeed, were it not for the ecclesiastical prejudices which would be aroused, we should venture to propose that Christmas Day

should be always held on the Tuesday on or nearest to December 25th, and that the day preceding and the day following should each be statutory Bank Holidays. Perhaps Sir John Lubbock will kindly think over the suggestion.

CROSSING-SWEEPERS.—The exceptionally dirty state of the streets during the last fortnight has reminded Londoners that in 1885 the collective wisdom passed an Act which, if applied, would somewhat mitigate the evil. Vestries can, if they like, engage crossing-sweepers to take the places of the miscellaneous tatterdemalions who now perform the office. It does not appear, however, that any Metropolitan Vestry has yet availed itself of this privilege. To do so would practically increase the rates, and that, as all men know, is antagonistic to Vestry feeling. It may be, however, that a different and less sordid consideration has operated to protect the vested interests of the established sweeper. What would become of the miserable creature if shut out from this last resource of the destitute? He might, it is true, apply to his Vestry for an appointment, producing his stumpy broom as a proof of qualification. But it is in the nature of things that preference would be given to those who either had friends at Court or could produce good characters. Already there is a proposal to give these humble posts to the "deserving unemployed," the idea being that the wearing of a badge would so raise the character of the profession as to eliminate the present taint of mendicancy. But what would become of the "undeserving poor," the class to which, it is to be feared, most crossing-sweepers belong? They have been crowded out of all other industries by the survival of the fittest, and they might well complain if their *dernier ressort* were also taken away from them. Whatever may be their demerits, they make a show, at all events, of trying to earn an honest living.

NOTICE.—With this Number is issued an EXTRA FOUR-PAGE SUPPLEMENT, entitled "THE METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADE."

THE GRAPHIC CHRISTMAS NUMBER. IS OUT OF PRINT. THERE WILL BE NO RE-ISSUE.



FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SAVOY GALLERY,
see page 656.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Sole Lessee, Mr. HENRY IRVING.—Mr. Henry Irving begs to announce that the Lyceum Theatre will open on SATURDAY, Dec. 29, when, at a quarter to eight o'clock, will be presented Shakespeare's Tragedy of MACBETH. Macbeth, Mr. Henry Irving; Lady Macbeth (for the first time), Miss Ellen Terry; Macduff, Mr. Alexander; Banquo, Mr. Wenman; Duncan, Mr. Hayland; Malcolm, Mr. Webster; Donalbain, Mr. Harvey; Ross, Mr. Tyars; Lennox, Mr. L. Outram; Angus, Mr. Lacy; Menteth, Mr. Archer; Siward, Mr. Howe; Seyton, Mr. Fenton; Sergeant, Mr. A. Raynor; Doctor, Mr. Stuart; Porter, Mr. Johnson; Murderers, Mr. Black and Mr. Carter; Messenger, Mr. Coveney, &c.; Gentlewoman, Miss Coleridge; Heate, Miss Ivor; Witches, Miss Julia Seaman, Miss Desborough, and Miss Marriott, &c. The incidental music composed by Arthur Sullivan. The scenery by Mr. Hawes Craven, Mr. Harker, Mr. Hall, Mr. W. Hann, Mr. Canoy, and Mr. Perkins. The Costumes designed by Mr. Charles Cattermole and Mr. Comyns Carr. The Orchestra under the direction of Mr. J. M. Ball. Chorus Master, Mr. Tabb. A new Act Drop has been painted by Mr. W. Telbin.—The Box Office (Mr. Joseph Hurst) open to-day and daily between the hours of ten and five. Seats can be booked four weeks in advance. Seats can also be booked by letter or telegram.—LYCEUM.

GLOBE THEATRE.—Sole Lessee, Mr. RICHARD MANSFIELD. Every Evening, at 8.45. Mr. RICHARD MANSFIELD and his Company in the Comedy, PRINCE KARL. Presented by Mr. EDITHA'S BURGLAR. Mr. Lionel Brough as the Burglar. Doors open 7.30. Box office open daily, 10 to 5.

BRITANNIA THEATRE.—Sole Proprietress, Mrs. S. LANE. EVERY EVENING, at 7. THE MAGIC DRAGON OF THE DEMON DELL, by J. Addison, Esq. Misses Millie Howes, Marie Lloyd, Myra Massey, Florita Estelle; Messrs. Pat Murphy, Will Oliver, Geo. Lupino, jun., W. Gardiner, A. V. H. Lupino, Bigwood, Newbound, &c. Performances every Monday and Thursday, at 1 o'clock.

EVERY AFTERNOON AT THREE.
EVERY NIGHT AT EIGHT.
ST. JAMES'S HALL,
PICCADILLY.

TRIUMPHANT AND UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS
MOORE AND BURGESS MINSTRELS'
NEW AND SPARKLING HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE.
The whole of the leading journals, unanimous in their approval of the new and delightful songs, and gloriously funny Comic Sketches, Dances, and Pantomime presented for the first time on Boxing Day.

ALL THE NEW PERFORMERS.
Have been applauded to the echo by the enormous audiences which have filled the Hall to overflowing.

EVERY AFTERNOON AND NIGHT.
Roars of laughter at the funny Pantomime,
SUMMER BORDERS,
in which the wonderful grotesque Artists,
THE THREE KARNOS,
perform.

MR. CHARLES JUTSON'S
Highly trained company of Juvenile Jack Tars, in their NAVAL MANOEUVRES and DRILL, also a great and unmistakable hit.

LIEUT. WEST.
The new American Comedian in his unique and refined Comical Act every day at three and every night at eight. Enthusiastic welcome of that renowned and universal favourite Comedian.

MR. G. W. MOORE.
On his return to London with his new song,
"WHEN YOU HEAR THE BIG BELL RING."

Beyond doubt the very best that he has sung for years.
Tickets for all parts of the Hall and also Reserved Seats can be secured at Basil Tree's (late Austin's) Universal Ticket Office, St. James's Hall, one month in advance. No charge for booking.
Fauenteils, 5s.; Stalls, 3s.; Area (raised seats), 2s.; Gallery, 1s. Doors open at 2.30 and 7 o'clock.

THE VALE OF TEARS.—Doré's LAST GREAT PICTURE completed a few days before he died. Now on VIEW at the DORÉ GALLERY, 35, New Bond Street, with "CHRIST LEAVING THE PRÆTORIUM," and his other Great Pictures. From 10 to 6 Daily. One Shilling.

JEPHTHA'S VOW. By EDWIN LONG, R.A. THREE NEW PICTURES.—JEPHTHA'S RETURN, 2. ON THE MOUNTAINS, 3. THE MARTYR—are NOW ON VIEW, with his celebrated ANNO DOMINI, ZEUXIS AT CROTONA, &c., at THE GALLERIES, 166, New Bond Street, from 10 to 6. Admission 1s.

NOTICE.—On January 5, 1889, we shall publish the first instalment of a New Story by Mr. Grant Allen, entitled "THE TENTS OF SHEM," illustrated by Messrs. Brewnall and Barclay, to be continued weekly until completion.



OPEN-AIR BALL AT HONG KONG

THIS entertainment was given at Hong Kong on the 26th of last July by the residents of Stokes' Bungalow, which is situated on the Peak. The Peak is the hill refuge from the hot summer nights of the town, and is accessible either by a chair and four bearers in an hour, or by steepgrade tramway (as recently illustrated by us) in half-an-hour. The chief feature of the dance was that it was held in the open-air on a brilliant moonlight night. There was a beautiful view of the distant sea and islands, and the general effect was very lovely. A number of Chinese lanterns were put round a tennis-court and across the middle, where was stretched a druggut. The chow-chow tables were placed left and right in the rear end of the court, and a mat-shed was erected for the band in the left far-corner of the court, and lit up in an arch with Chinese lanterns.—Our engravings are from sketches sent by Mr. A. P. Stokes, Supreme Court House, Hong Kong.

THE HOME OF A ROYAL SHIPWRIGHT

The little Dutch town of Zaandam is situated on the Y, about eight miles from Amsterdam, whence it is within easy reach by train and steamer. It is well worth a visit from the tourist, as it contains the identical hut—in a fairly good state of preservation—which Peter the Great inhabited during a portion of the seven or eight months which he spent in the town in 1697, when obtaining a practical insight into the art of shipbuilding. Zaandam is a typical Dutch village, with its quaint buildings, its wide straight streets, lined with dwarf trees, and intersected with canals, while some three hundred windmills are busily at work in all directions. The chief attraction, however, is the wooden hut which once formed the dwelling of the great Czar. This stands in a group of other timber houses, several of which, from their dates, are evidently contemporaneous with the historic structure. Czar Peter's dwelling is some thirty feet long by fifteen broad, and is divided into two compartments. One of our illustrations shows two cottages. The smaller is the Czar's dwelling; the larger, now demolished, being another building altogether. The little outhouse leaning against a wall by the door has been removed; but, otherwise, the building has survived the ravages of time. One of the compartments, which is without a fireplace, was evidently used as a workshop, and is simply a room with two windows of talc in panes of some three inches square. Several paintings are in the room—portraits of several Czars, including those of Czar Peter himself and his secretary. These last have been placed there comparatively recently. The second compartment, which was evidently the living-room, contains several rude oak chairs, a table, and a loft-ladder. The cupboard-like aperture formed the Czar's sleeping-quarters, barely a few feet square. There are several interesting tablets affixed to the walls—one, the largest, over the table, having been placed there by the King of the Netherlands, in commemoration of his visit; and another by the late Czar, bearing the inscription, "Nothing too little for the great." There is a cosy fireplace with a carved-oak shelf, the mantels being lined with the celebrated tiles such as have been manufactured by the Zaandamites for the last four centuries. In 1832 the hut was discovered to be a foot under water; so the authorities took it in hand, drained and cleaned it, and erected over the precious structure a light brick building to preserve it from any further decay. The ship-yard—scarcely a stone's throw from the cottage—bears little, if any, likeness to its appearance two centuries since, as the people of Zaandam have almost entirely lost the reputation which they then possessed as shipwrights, and hardly a relic remains, beyond the Czar's hut, to remind the visitor of Zaandam's past greatness.—Our illustrations are from photographs by D. Engel, Zaandam.

OSTRICH FARMING IN CALIFORNIA

OSTRICH farming has proved so successful in South Africa that our Transatlantic cousins, always on the watch for some new means of developing the resources of their country, determined to try the same experiment in California, where the climate and surroundings were considered to be extremely fitted for the purpose. Accordingly, in 1882, some birds were imported from Cape Town, and in 1886 and 1887 further shipments were forwarded from Natal. This last was made by Mr. Cawston, who landed forty-two birds out of fifty-two. They were then taken to Mr. Cawston's "Norwalk Ostrich Farm," in Los Angeles, California, where our illustrations were taken. The voyage from Natal to Galveston, Texas, took seventy days, a ship having been chartered for the purpose, every ostrich having a separate padded box. Mr. Cawston has been successful in raising a large number of young birds—those in one of the illustrations being one and two weeks old. The climate and country—as had been expected—appear to be admirably suited to the culture of these birds. The experiment also appears to be fairly profitable, as from one small bird and two hens he produced—principally by means of incubation—eighteen chicks in one season. Before they were ten weeks old he sold them for 87½, some going to Arizona where a farm is being established, and others being purchased for exhibition purposes. In addition to this the feathers will realise 50½, making a total result of about 140½ from three birds. Ostrich feathers, we should mention, are protected in the United States by an import duty of 25 per cent., and, as the farm is close to large cities, good prices can be obtained for them.

VIEWS ON LAKE NYASSA—I.

THE strenuous efforts now being made to put down the slave trade keenly sharpen European interest in affairs in Central and Eastern Africa, more especially in the region of Lake Nyassa, where for many years missionary endeavours have been bent towards the same end. The Europeans have struggled—and in the main successfully—to establish themselves on the lake shores despite two fierce foes—the Arab trader and the disastrous climate, which has destroyed as many lives as the native spears. For a time the missions were comparatively let alone by the Arabs, when the first burst of opposition had been overcome. But within the last five years, since a more determined course was taken against the slave-traders, the latter again became actively hostile, infecting the friendly chiefs with the fear that their profitable traffic was doomed unless they could crush the white intruders. Not only the missionaries but the European traders were attacked—including the members of the African Lakes Company, who this summer were fiercely besieged by the Arabs at Karonga, at the north-western end of the lake. This company has its head-quarters at Mandala, which stands on high land about a mile from Blantyre. As Mandala occupies a very healthy situation, it has become a perfect sanatorium for people living in the feverish plains. So far, however, Livingstonia, the chief missionary station on the



1. A Launch in 1697

2. Room in the House showing Peter the Great's Cupboard-Bed

3. Peter the Great's House (the smaller one on the left; the larger house was demolished some time ago)

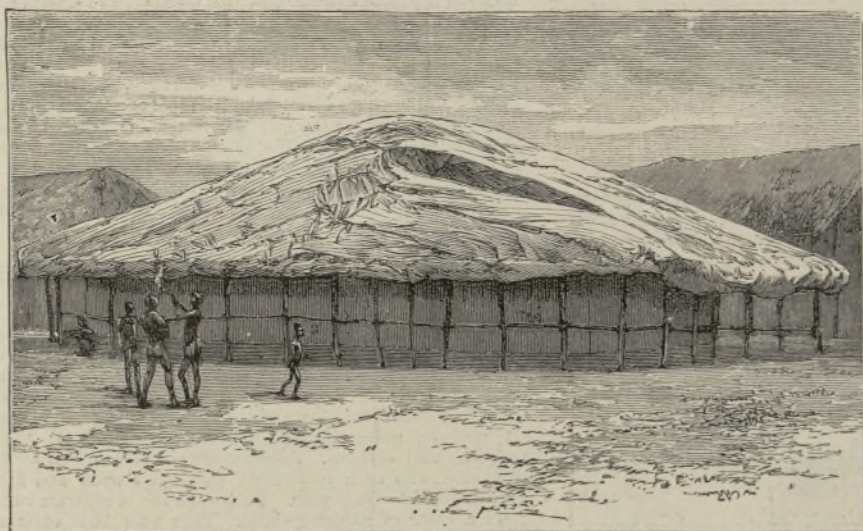
4. Peter the Great's House, with a modern house of brick built to protect it

THE HOME OF A ROYAL SHIPWRIGHT
SCENES AT ZAANDAM, HOLLAND, WHERE THE CZAR PETER THE GREAT LEARNED SHIPBUILDING IN 1697

YOUNG OSTRICHES



GENERAL VIEW OF THE FARM
OSTRICH-FARMING AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



TOMB OF THE LATE CHIEF MPONDA



HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE AFRICAN LAKES COMPANY, MANDALA—THE STORE, AND QUARTERS OF THE EUROPEAN CLERKS



MISSION STATION AT BLANTYRE—THE CEMETERY



CLOUD EFFECT AT SUNRISE FROM THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT SOCHI



THE MISSION STATION, LIVINGSTONIA



THE LIVINGSTONIA MISSION—MANSE AT LIVINGSTONIA



THE CHURCH, BLANTYRE



THE UNIVERSITIES MISSION STEAMER "CHARLES JANSEN" OFF LIVINGSTONIA

THE SLAVE QUESTION IN EASTERN AFRICA, I.—VIEWS ON LAKE NYASSA

Lake, has escaped disturbance. As Dr. Livingstone had discovered Lake Nyassa, and most earnestly desired to found a mission there, no more appropriate memorial could have been raised to the devoted traveller than this station bearing his name, and founded on the site of his labours. Livingstone was first planted in 1875 at the southern end of the Lake, which is 200 miles long, with a breadth varying from fifteen to eighteen miles. Surrounded by fertile territory sloping up to the mountains, the lake is fed by numerous large streams. Livingstone lies in a little bay at the foot of the Kanguni Hills, but owing to the neighbouring swamp has lately become very unhealthy to Europeans, who have been compelled to migrate to Bandawe, further north. Native converts accordingly carry on the work, which includes scholastic as well as religious teaching. Several tribes live near to be under European protection, but they still retain their superstitious customs. When the first missionaries arrived this district belonged to an old chief named Mponda, who was very friendly with the Europeans. He has since died, being succeeded by another Mponda, his brother. The old chief's grave is one of the curiosities of the neighbourhood. It is a big building at the extreme south of the lake, opposite Mponda's residence, and very curiously ornamented. The thatched roof is covered with white calico, which also hangs down from the ceiling inside in long pendants. The actual grave lies north and south looking towards Mecca, and is surrounded by a turreted wall, the tomb itself being merely an ordinary mound. A screen of native cloths hangs in front, and is only raised when visitors come, the latter duly leaving their offerings in payment for the sight, as the building is usually locked.

Notwithstanding the catastrophe attending their original settlement in this district, when the first Bishop of Central Africa, Dr. Mackenzie, succumbed to the climate, the Universities Mission still work on Lake Nyassa, keeping their steamer, the *Charles Jansen*, constantly plying up and down the waters. South of the Lake proper, near the Shiré River, is Blantyre, where the Scotch Mission station is situated, and whose pretty houses and flower-gardens give the station a look of home. A short distance away is the new Consulate, where the British Consul for Lake Nyassa, Mr. Hawes, has his headquarters. The trade of the Nyassa region, according to Mr. Hawes' view, is unimportant except for ivory and oil-seeds. The ground however is very fertile, and Europeans are now beginning to cultivate rubber and cinchona profitably, but coffee with poor success. From a picturesque point of view the country is most beautiful, though the heavy dew and damp heat render travelling very trying till the travellers reach a considerable height, and enjoy such a prospect as the cloud effect at sunrise on Mount Sochi, depicted in our illustration.—Our engravings are from photographs taken by Mr. Albert Hawes, H.B.M.'s Consul at Nyassa, and forwarded to us by Mr. Milford Hallett.

THE SUAKIN CAMPAIGN

A PARAGRAPH under our panoramic view describes the main features of Suakin and its surroundings. In further explanation the officer who sent us the sketch writes:—"The line joining the two water-forts is on a high mud-bank (the embankment referred to in our paragraph) used as a dam in the rainy season. On the far side are all the fresh-water wells of the town, which are commanded by the enemy's trenches. They are about 600 yards from the water-forts. The long trench on the left is within range of the road passing from the Town Gate to the well, and from this a constant fire is maintained at people who may be passing, and at the train employed in carrying the brackish water from a few wells on the side of the bank nearer the town. Handoub in the distance is eleven miles away across a desert, bare for the most part, but with here and there some low bushes. It forms Osman Digna's headquarters." This, of course, was written before General Grenfell's little army drove out the Arabs from the trenches on Thursday week. Suakin, we may add, is the chief port of the Soudan, and contains a good harbour formed by a channel 300 yards wide, which runs between the main islands (or peninsulas)—the one on which the town is built, and another known as Quarantine Island. Though completely sheltered from all winds, the harbour is too shallow to admit the largest vessels. The two islands are situated in a lagoon, or bay, which is connected with the sea by a neck of water about three-quarters of a mile long, and just wide enough to admit of two ships passing. In this bay outside the islands there is water sufficiently deep for ocean-going steamers. The entrance to the harbour is difficult, and dangerous coral reefs lie off the coast for twenty miles.

Our other illustrations represent incidents during the recent march of the Soudanese regiment from the Nile to Kossair, whence they embarked to take part in the operations at Suakin. They marched by the old desert route of 120 miles, which was taken by Sir David Baird and his army of 5,000 men in 1801. The Bir el Inglesi, or English Wells, were dug by his men, and are still called by that name by the Arabs. The detachment which we depict consisted of cavalry and the 10th Soudanese regiment from Assouan, and performed the march in six days from Kuit on the Nile to Kossair. The longest day's march was twenty-two miles, showing that the marching power and endurance of these black troops are especially noteworthy, while their fighting qualities are no less renowned. They marched in blue football jerseys and white knickerbockers, with white puggarees over their fezzes.

PROPOSED WESTMINSTER MAUSOLEUM

We most heartily wish success to Mr. Shaw Lefevre in his proposed scheme to erect a monumental chapel attached to Westminster Abbey. Our noble Abbey Church has for many years been far too crowded up with statues, busts, mural tablets, &c. Yet such mementos of our great men must continue to be erected, and some such structure as that proposed must be ready to receive them.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre simply suggests a large chapel between the Chapter House and Old Palace Yard, but as this is to be a National Mausoleum, and a public monument, it might be worth while to secure a larger and more disencumbered site, say for instance the west side of Abingdon Street, and perhaps College Mews. This site would have considerable advantage over that proposed, which is closely hemmed in by ancient buildings, and is almost strangled by the Old Jewel Tower, and the ruins of the Chapel of St. Catherine. If, as we suggest, the building were erected on the west side of Abingdon Street, it would have a clear frontage of some 360 feet opposite the Houses of Parliament, and the space would allow of the erection of a kind of "Campo Santo," or Cloister, with a great chapel in its centre, which might consist of a hexagonal structure with projecting wings, or transepts, those on the northern or southern sides being the longer and more extensive. The projection to the east might contain an altar. The portions of the enclosure of the cloisters not covered by buildings might be used for burials and monumental structures, similar to those shown in the old drawing of the "Cemetery of The Innocents" at Paris. The numerous mediæval monumental structures, such, for instance, as the church of St. Gereon at Cologne, the mausoleum of the Theban Legion, the unfinished mausoleum of Don Emmanuel at Batalha, in Portugal, the "Chapel of the Constable" at Burgos, in Spain, and the now destroyed mausoleum of the Valois at St. Denis, which is shown in a drawing by Israel Silvestre, would offer suggestions as to the arrangement of the chapel itself.

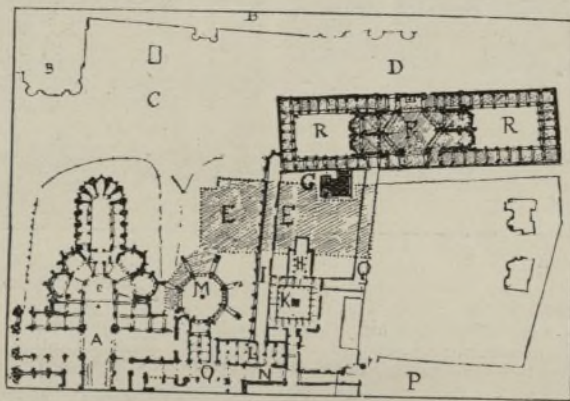
The series of historical statues which surrounds the monument of Maximilian at Innsbruck affords a valuable hint for the arrange-

* The cloisters shown in our sketch were destroyed sixty years ago.

ment of statues. These great figures, standing upon a series of "podia" extending from column to column, avoid that isolated and unmeaning effect so frequently produced by monumental statues erected within the walls of churches.

As, unfortunately, we possess no special nineteenth-century style, and cannot therefore follow the example of the architect of Henry VII.'s Chapel, who made use of a style entirely at variance with that of the Abbey Church to work in that of his own day, or of Philibert Delorme, who, for the same reason, made a still bolder departure in the mausoleum which he built for the Valois family at St. Denis; it would probably be advisable to employ a style which is not far removed from that of the Abbey Church itself, though it would certainly be a mistake to copy any of the features of the ancient building.

Whatever style, however, is selected, the light should be arranged to find its way into the building from a height; and, internally at least, all its lower part should be kept extremely plain, so as to allow of monumental tablets and niches being reared against its walls and columns without disfigurement.



- A Westminster Abbey Church
B Houses of Parliament
C Old Palace Yard
D Abingdon Street
E Proposed Site for "Monumental Chapel"
F Site suggested for the same by The Graphic
G Ancient Jewel Tower
H St. Catherine's Chapel (in ruins)
I Open spaces of Cloisters to Monumental Chapel as suggested by The Graphic
J Suggested Cloister connecting New Building with the Abbey
K Little Cloister
L Ancient "Chapel of the Pyx"
M Chapter House
N "Dark Cloister"
O Great Cloister
P Westminster School
Q Alternative Cloister to suggested New Building

INDEX TO PLAN

No doubt this site would be somewhat further removed from the Abbey Church than that proposed by Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, but this would be no real objection, as the new building, wherever situated would be a distinct structure, and therefore whether fifty or one hundred feet distant from the ancient building would be a matter of no importance. Indeed, the further it is removed from the Abbey, the less likely it would tend to disfigure that glorious old church. It could be connected, moreover, by a cloister uniting it to the "Little Cloisters" of the Abbey, or with the ancient Chapel of the Pyx, which latter would be thrown open to the public; a thing which we hope to see done under any circumstances, as it is the most valuable remaining portion of the work of St. Edward the Confessor.

The annexed plan shows the two sites, and the way in which it is proposed to deal with that on the west side of Abingdon Street.

H. W. B.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR. SELBY

THE funeral of the late Mr. James Selby, the well-known "Old Times" coachman, whose premature death from bronchitis we recorded in our last issue, took place on the 19th inst., at Highgate Cemetery. The time fixed for the funeral to leave Edgware Road was 11 A.M., but long before then the road was blocked with an enormous crowd, and with a large number of vehicles which were to follow the remains of the deceased coachman to the grave. The hearse, which was preceded by a funeral car, entirely laden with floral tributes, was drawn by four horses. Then came the "Old Times" coach, which the deceased had driven with such conspicuous skill, four private carriages for mourners, and a brake for Mr. Selby's servants. After this came a line of coaches, such as the "Virginia Water," "Defiance," "New Times," "Dorking," &c., and a number of private carriages. The procession was nearly a mile in length. Crowds of people lined the route to the cemetery, and the respect in which the deceased was held was shown by the fact that the omnibus and cab-drivers in the West End appeared with crape-bows on their whips.

NOTES IN GUATEMALA

THE Republic of Guatemala is far less known in England than in the United States, as there are very few Englishmen settled in the country, while numerous citizens of the great North American Republic are engaged in industrial enterprises or in coffee-planting. The area of Guatemala is some 45,000 square miles, inhabited by a population of about a million and a half. Of these there are 800,000 Indians, 200,000 whites of Spanish origin, and 400,000 whites of mixed blood. The chief product of the country is coffee. Other products are sugar, hides, rubber, cocoa, tobacco, maize, wood, bananas, &c.; while gold and silver mines of considerable value exist, but as yet are quite undeveloped. There are several small ports on the Pacific coast, where at present the export trade is carried on; and one, Port Livingston, on the Atlantic seaboard, with a very fine harbour, which is looked upon as the future principal port of Guatemala, when the railway between it and the capital is completed. There is already a railroad from Guatemala city to the Pacific Port of San José, and a second from Champerico to Retalhulco, over which the bulk of the coffee is carried. Throughout Spanish America there is a great scarcity of labour, but in Guatemala this deficiency only exists at present in a few districts, the ordinary wages ranging from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. a day. It is customary for the planters, when they require, say from fifty to a hundred labourers to apply to the Mayor of the nearest town, who provides them—work being compulsory on those who cannot show that they have any other means of subsistence. When, however, the large tracts available for coffee planting are developed, the difficulty of procuring labour will be increased. At present the cost of cultivating, picking, shelling, and generally preparing a cwt. of coffee for the market is under 16s., while the market price in Guatemala rules about 50s., thus leaving the planter a fair margin of profit. The climate in the coffee-growing region is most healthy and agreeable, ranging from 60 deg. to 80 deg. Fahrenheit in the daytime. The capital, Guatemala City, contains some 70,000 inhabitants, with spacious streets, and handsome public buildings. About nine hours' walk is Antigua, or "Old Guatemala," which was forsaken by its inhabitants after the terrible earthquakes of 1773, most of its buildings, as one of our illustrations shows, being in ruins.

THE METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADE

See pp. 681 et seqq.

CAROL SINGING ON CHRISTMAS EVE AT HAMPTON COURT PALACE

CAROL singing on Christmas Eve at Hampton Court Palace is an old custom lately revived. The Choir of the Chapel assemble between 8.30 and 9 o'clock in the evening, and first proceed to the garden outside the Princess Frederica's window. There they form a circle and sing the different carols. A move is then made through the quadrangles and cloisters, and the programme is repeated at various points. Our illustration is taken at the foot of the staircase leading to the Great Hall, under the roofing of the historic gateway. The view is looking towards the turrets, flanking Wolsey's main entrance to the Palace. The whole effect on a clear, frosty night is exceedingly picturesque, with the lanterns and watchmen, and not a few of the residents both of the Palace and neighbourhood. The carols sung are of the good old times, and are thoroughly enjoyed alike by singers and listeners.

JESUS HOSPITAL—AN ANCIENT HOUSE OF CHARITY IN THE MIDLANDS

THIS hospital is situated at Rothwell, Northamptonshire, and consists of a long stone grey building, with two wings of a later date. The oldest part bears date 1593. A stone gateway, bearing the legend "Jesus Hospital," stands at the top of a long courtyard, down which the visitor passes to the building. A passage, going through the building, leads to the inmates' gardens and orchard. Accommodation is provided for twenty-six old men, who each receive six shillings a-week and firing, and a suit of clothes every year. Each man has a separate bed-chamber, and a piece of garden-ground. They wear blue coats and waistcoats, corduroy breeches and gaiters. Every morning they assemble in the old church, where the Principal reads prayers to them. They sit in the order of their admission to the charity, the senior arrival being styled "the King." Shut in by the old gateway from the noise of the little town, they live a peaceful life under their apple-trees. A quiet sleepiness pervades the place, and groups of the old men can be seen basking in the sun on their lichen benches, protected from the east and north winds by the grey hospital walls. "Frank," whose portrait is given separately, was a fine old fellow of eighty-four, yet still upright and active, with mighty shoulders and arms, a strong intelligent face, and hair far from white. He had been a great walker in his day, and also, according to his own account, a successful courier of the fair sex. "Charley," "the King" of the establishment, was decidedly a merry monarch, like his Royal namesake, and still possessed of a stentorian voice. The apple-gathering at Jesus Hospital was a solemn ceremony, and four weeks previous King Charley kept watch and ward in the orchard to defeat the designs of the predatory small boy. It is in the natural course of things that there should often be a death at the Hospital. As soon as a man dies, the Principal sends a letter to the Governor whose turn it is to appoint a new man. The letter is taken by one of the blue-coats, who receives a shilling for his journey. The Governors are all neighbouring squires, and the messenger generally walks eight or ten miles to the hall, delivers his letter, and, after beer and solids, trudges back again. It is a law of the place that the men shall follow their dead comrade some way on his last journey. Our artist was present on one of these melancholy occasions. A cart and horse were brought to the hospital gate, and some of the dead man's kinsfolk brought his "bits of things" from the little bedroom, and piled them on the cart. His best suit, newest hat, and last pair of stockings are left for his successor. Some of his surviving colleagues lifted up the coffin, and brought it to the waggon, after which the procession started. In this case the place of burial was some eight or ten miles away, so when the old man had reached the last house in the town, "the King" gave the signal to return. Sometimes the deceased's suit of clothes is either too large or too small for his successor, but he has to grin and bear it until Michaelmas, when the tailor comes and measures him for his new suit. On the Sunday following the day on which they receive their apparel, the old men go to Church resplendent, and sit in their pew, gorgeous in glossy cloth and shining buttons.—Our engravings are from sketches by Miss Elizabeth M. Chettle, "The Yews," Chellington, Bedford.



POLITICAL.—The festivities and holiday-making of the earlier half of Christmas week have been little disturbed by political oratory. Since our last issue Sir Horace Davey, who was Solicitor-General in Mr. Gladstone's Administration of 1886, and has made several unsuccessful attempts to enter Parliament, has been elected member for Stockton. But his majority of 395 over Mr. Wrightson (C) shows a reduction of 607 in the Gladstonian majority of 1886.—Sir W. G. Pearce (C.) has for family reasons declined to become a candidate for the seat in the Govan division of Lanarkshire, vacant through the death of his father. Mr. A. Stephen, a Liberal Unionist, has now been invited to stand. Should he also decline Sir John Pender will probably be the Unionist candidate.—Lord Randolph Churchill has declined an invitation from the East Aberdeenshire Conservative Association to become their candidate at the next election, being strongly of opinion that "Scottish constituencies greatly prefer as their Parliamentary representatives men of Scottish birth and residence."

MR. BRIGHT'S CONDITION, after he had undergone a slight relapse, was, at the middle of the week, considered to be "re-assuring." He was then "cheerful and comfortable."

THE EARL OF KINTORE is to be Governor of South Australia on the retirement of Sir W. C. F. Robinson, and Sir Henry A. Blake succeeds in the Governorship of Jamaica Sir Henry Norman, the newly-appointed Governor of Queensland.

MR. O'KELLY was released from Sligo Prison on Christmas Eve, and on receiving at Boyle a purse of sovereigns and a laudatory address, said that he was not a whit the worse for his incarceration.

MISCELLANEOUS.—The largest award made by the delegates of the Hospital Saturday Fund is that of 578l. to the London Hospital, followed by one of 542l. to Brompton, and of 395l. to Guy's.—A mural monument of the late Sir Henry Maine has been erected in one of the Cloisters of Christ's Hospital, subscribed for by Governors and former *alumni* of that Institution, which he entered as a scholar nearly sixty years ago.—With the sanction of the London University Senate, the Celtic languages are to have a place among the subjects included in the M.A. Degree of the University College of North Wales, the Council of which will, in January, appoint its first lecturer on Welsh.

THE DEATH, in his seventy-third year, of Sir (William) Frederick Pollock, Bart., eldest son of the late Chief Baron Pollock, and Queen's Remembrancer (an office which has ceased to have a separate existence), from 1874 until his resignation two or three years since. He was the friend of many of his most distinguished contemporaries, and a highly cultivated man of genial disposition and engaging manners. He executed a faithful translation of Dante's

great poem into blank verse, edited Macready's "Reminiscences," and contributed to several of our leading periodicals. Recently he became known to the general reading public through his pleasantly gossiping autobiographical work, "Personal Reminiscences." He is succeeded in the baronetcy by his eldest son, Professor F. W. Pollock, who is the late Sir Henry Maine's successor in the Corpus Professorship of Jurisprudence at Oxford.

WITH THE DEATH, in his fifty-ninth year, of Mr. Laurence Oliphant, who had for some time been suffering from a painful and incurable disease, there was closed on Sunday one of the most adventurous and romantic careers of the century. Son of Sir Anthony Oliphant, Chief Justice of Ceylon, at eighteen he was aiding the Italian revolution. He was next heard of as the friend of Jung Bahadur, whom he, when private secretary to his father, met in Ceylon, and accompanied to Nepal. From Nepal he flitted to the Crimea, and afterwards to Washington, as private secretary to Lord Elgin, during a special mission to the States, a post which led to his being appointed Civil Secretary and Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Canada. During the Crimean War, he campaigned with Omar Pasha, and accompanied Lord Elgin to China, where he played a military, as well as a diplomatic, part. In 1860 he was *chargé d'affaires* in Japan. From 1865 to 1868 he was M.P., without attaining parliamentary distinction, for the Stirling burghs. Visiting the United States, with the intention of settling there, he developed into a theosophist, falling under the influence of a gentleman known as "the prophet Harris;" yet in 1870, during the Franco-German War, he figured as a war correspondent of the *Times*. The chief episode of his later career was his life at Haifa, under the shadow of Mount Carmel, where he made himself a home, and acquired a great influence over the population. Mr. Oliphant's personal and spiritual experiences were recorded in a long series of works, from his book on "Katmandu," his "Minnesota and the Far West," his "Crimea and the Shores of the Black Sea," his narrative of "Lord Elgin's Mission to China and Japan," his "Land of Gilead," onward to his weird and mystical novel, "Masollam," published in 1886, which was in strange contrast to such of his previous bright fictions as "Piccadilly" or "Altiora Peto," and his "Scientific Religion," published only a few months ago, in which he propounded startling theosophic theories. Mr. Oliphant's second wife, Miss Rosamond Dale Owen, a spiritualist and social reformer, was a granddaughter of Richard Owen, the Socialist, and a daughter of Robert Dale Owen, the American diplomatist and spiritualist.

OUR USUAL OBITUARY includes the death, in his seventy-eighth year, of Mr. Philip Henry Muntz, long one of the most prominent of Birmingham Advanced Liberals, an active promoter of the incorporation of that borough, of which he was twice Mayor, and for which he was M.P. from 1868 to 1885; in his eighty-second year, of Mr. Eliot Macnaghten, a former director of the East India Company, and member of the Indian Council; in his seventy-fourth year, of General Robert N. Phillips, Colonel of the York and Lancaster Regiment, who took part in the Kaffir War of 1851-3; in his eighty-ninth year, of General David Downing, late of the Bengal Army, which he entered nearly sixty years ago, serving in the Punjab campaigns of 1848-9; of the Rev. C. D. Southey, Vicar of Askham, near Penrith, and son of the poet Southey; of Mr. John Helmsley, for the last twelve years Chairman of the Implementation Committee of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and an active member of its Showyard Works and Stock-Prizes Committees; and of Mr. Edward T. Leith, formerly Professor of Law in the University of Bombay, author of several disquisitions, chiefly on Indian subjects, among them one on "Cannibalism in India," an elaborate work, which he was completing at the time of his death.



BOXING NIGHT falls this year, unfortunately, too late in the week for more than a cursory glance at those novelties at the theatres which belong essentially to the class of holiday entertainments. The daily papers have already proclaimed far and wide the merits of *The Babes in the Wood*, which Mr. Augustus Harris himself proclaims—and what higher, or more impartial authority could be desired?—to be not only better than any of its nine forerunners, but absolutely "the finest ever produced." Clearly it ought to be of more than usual merit, for whereas one author, in the person of Mr. E. L. Blanchard, has hitherto been deemed equal to the task of writing the book, it has on this occasion employed three authors. But every one knows that a DRURY LANE pantomime is the product of many busy brains. Mr. Blanchard may furnish his facile rhymes, but what about the practical business, or the very latest "topical" allusions? Here Mr. Harry Nicholls, whose drolleries on Wednesday evening so often sent great waves of laughter rolling across the vast sea of faces in pit and gallery, is probably more at home, and accordingly Mr. Nicholls claims the honours of part author. And what of the gorgeous pageantry and varied splendours of the "Paradise of Birds" and "the great procession of Toys and Games?" Mr. Augustus Harris, who is the third member of the trio, may here be supposed to have had a chief directing hand and eye. Perhaps there were old playgoers at Drury Lane on Boxing Night who, recalling the pantomimes of their youth, grieved to see Mr. Harry Payne and his associates in motley and in spangles reduced to so subordinate a position—so completely overpowered by the inexhaustible succession of brilliant accessories. But that is an idle and a vain regret. Pantomime of the old pattern—there is no blinking the fact—is in the category of things that have been. We have already noted that as regards the West End of the town, pantomime is, this year, confined to Drury Lane—COVENT GARDEN, whither the proud John Kemble was glad to decoy the renowned Grimaldi from the humble Sadler's Wells, being this year converted into a grand circus for equestrian, acrobatic, and kindred performances, under the experienced direction of the Messrs. Hengler. In the suburbs, as usual, pantomime, on the other hand, flourishes in full vigour, with the important exception of the NATIONAL STANDARD Theatre in Shoreditch, which is this year without a tenant, and has been vainly seeking a purchaser in the Auction Mart. At the PAVILION, there is an East End, and at the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, a Surrey side, *Babes in the Wood*, and among the other leading suburban pantomimes are *The Dragon of the Demon's Dell*, at the BRITANNIA; *Sweet Cinderella* (a distinction apparently without a difference), at the GRAND; *Whittington*, at the MARLBOROUGH; *Beauty and the Beast*, at SADLER'S WELLS; *The Forty Thieves*, at the SURREY; and at SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE, *Robinson Crusoe*, which, however, is but an extra to a great programme of circus entertainments.

The new romantic drama in four acts at the ADELPHI, entitled *The Silver Falls*, seems to mark a reaction against the regulation pattern of Adelphi melodramas. It is no longer the worthy hero hunted down by the villain who covets the hero's wife, and is prepared to go to any lengths to gratify his malignant cravings for revenge. On the contrary, it is the wicked wife who drives to despair the worthy hero, and pursues him even into the heart of Mexico, where she finds him just married to an amiable and gentle girl, on the faith of a false report of his persecutor's death. All

this marks a laudable effort on the part of Messrs. Sims and Pettitt to free themselves from the trammels of a tradition which has begun to be a little wearisome even to those simple-minded playgoers who have a robust appetite for melodrama. Unfortunately, though the attempt to strike out a new path is vigorous and spirited in the first act or prologue, and is supported by some admirable acting on the part of Miss Nethersole and Mr. Terriss, the succeeding acts, which carry the spectator away from the banks of the Thames to the silver-mining districts of Mexico, are rather diffuse, and are overlaid with details that have but an incidental connection with the main thread of interest. Really all that is essential in the last three acts of *The Silver Falls*, in the way of story, is that Mr. Terriss, in the belief that his wicked wife is dead, marries a charming orphan girl, in the person of Miss Millward, and then discovers that he has committed unconscious bigamy. There is one powerful situation when the wife makes her appearance in the shanty of the newly-wedded couple; but neither authors nor players avail themselves to full of its dramatic capabilities. When the obstacle to the matrimonial bliss of Mr. Terriss and Miss Millward is removed by the murder of the wicked wife at the hand of an old lover whom she has betrayed, the curtain falls. There are some capital sketches of life at the mines, after the manner of Mr. Bret Harte, and here some amusement is furnished by the sayings and doings of Mr. J. L. Shine and Miss Clara Jecks, who are supposed to have come from England to Mexico in order to set up in business as "Universal Providers." The set scenes, painted for the occasion, by Mr. Walter Johnstone and Mr. Bruce Smith, are also exceptionally picturesque and striking, lighted as they are by the new electric system, and, on the whole, *The Silver Falls*, though it is not likely to rank among the leading successes of Messrs. Gatti's management, received on the first night a very cordial welcome.

A passing notice must here suffice for *Little Goody Two Shoes*, performed by children, which will be the regular afternoon entertainment at the COURT Theatre, where Mrs. John Wood and Mr. Hare will still be seen nightly in *Mamma*. In the same category of Christmas entertainments for young people which are entirely distinct from the evening bill is Mr. Savile Clarke's *Alice in Wonderland* at the GLOBE, a piece full of innocent fun, refinement, and grace, which every little girl and boy who has any affection for Lewis Carroll (with whose express permission and sanction the dramatic version was produced) ought to see at least once. It is brilliantly put on the stage, and admirably acted by the young performers. Nor must we forget Alice's near neighbour *The Real Little Lord Fauntleroy*—otherwise Miss Vera Beringer, brightest, cleverest, and most winning of all child performers, who (Saturday only excepted) will continue her afternoon performances at the OPERA COMIQUE.

These, with the JODRELL Theatre (where Miss Rosa Patti and her company from America have made their appearance in a sort of variety entertainment), the re-opening of TOOLE'S, with that popular comedian in *The Don*, and the reproduction of that droll comedy, *Tricorne et Cacolet*, by Mr. Mayer's French Company at the ROYALTY, bring to a close the list of Christmas entertainments which are of a special character. Mr. Irving at the LYCEUM, as our readers are aware, has postponed the much expected revival of *Macbeth* to this evening. Chief among the other houses which maintain their even way without material change of bill are the AVENUE, *Nadgy*; the COMEDY, *Uncles and Aunts*; the CRITERION, *Betsy*; the EMPIRE and ALHAMBRA, with their gorgeous ballets and miscellaneous entertainments; the GAIETY, *Faust Up to Date*; the GLOBE, to which Mr. Mansfield has just transferred *Prince Karl*; the HAYMARKET, *Captain Swift*; the LYRIC, *Dorothy*; the OLYMPIC (lately opened with a revival of *East Lynne*); the OPERA COMIQUE, *Carina*; the PRINCESS'S, *Hands Across the Sea*; the ST. JAMES'S, *Brantingham Hall*; the SAVOY, *The Yeomen of the Guard*; the SHAFTESBURY, *The Lady of Lyons*; the STRAND, *Atlantia*; TERRY'S, *Sweet Lavender*; and the VAUDEVILLE, *Joseph's Sweetheart*.

The pantomime at the CRYSTAL PALACE is *Cinderella*, the story being told by Mr. Oscar Barrett in a plain, straightforward manner, without any of those extraneous bewildering incidents which, though exceedingly amusing in themselves, are apt to break the thread of the story, and somewhat puzzle the juvenile mind. Mr. Edward Righton, as one of the elder sisters, Mr. Clarence J. Hague, and Mr. John D'Auban are exceedingly comic in their various parts, though there is perhaps hardly as much of that genuine knock-me-down fun which generally prevails at the Palace, but this is made up—at least to the older portion of the audience by the great taste displayed in the scenery and the dresses—the latter in the ball-room scene being especially artistic and harmonious. There is a little too much dancing for juvenile liking—the dancing by the way being very graceful—and doubtless as time goes on, the performers will infuse rather more of the genuine pantomimic spirit into their work, for after all pantomimes are supposed to be written for children. Miss Edith Bruce makes a pretty and lively Cinderella, and is well supported by Miss Emma D'Auban as the fairy godmother.

THE MOORE AND BURGESS MINSTRELS.—If it be annoying for the public when a performance announced for three o'clock begins half-an-hour later, it is equally annoying for the critic when it begins half-an-hour earlier. The latter was the case with the Boxing Day performance of the "Christy's," and consequently we are unable to speak from personal experience as to the earlier songs in the programme. But, judging by the later, we may take it they were up to the usual mark. It is useless, we suppose, to ask that some of the old plantation melodies, pleasant reminiscences of which were aroused by Mr. Eugene Stratton's singing of "I lub dat lubly gal I do," should be included in the programme. The enormous and enthusiastic crowd which filled St. James's Great Hall to overflowing seem to like the colourless sentimental ballads which have taken their place so well that it would be superfluous to give them anything else. Of the comic songs "The Whistling Coon" was by far the best. Mr. Stratton's "performances upon the labial organ"—"American" for whistling—beat everything in that line that even the London street-boy can do. Mr. Moore's song, "When you hear the big bell ring," was a trifle indistinct, but the chorusing was admirable. In the second part, the gymnastic performances of "The Three Karnos" were very clever, though it was quite unnecessary to put one of them into (exceedingly brief) petticoats; while the "bone solo" of Lieutenant West, "giving a true representation of a pugilistic encounter," must have charmed even such an enthusiastic connoisseur of "the noble art" as Mr. Moore himself.



SPORT of all kinds is very slack during the week ending with Christmas Day. The postponed Windsor Steeplechase Meeting duly came off on Friday and Saturday last week, but there was no racing of importance. More interest, indeed, was taken in the Newmarket December Sales, held by Messrs. Tattersall. Considering the time of year, very good prices were given, though mostly, we regret to say, by foreigners, who have thus taken out of the country some very good horses. Galore changed hands at 2,000 guineas, which, though less than half what was last given for him, was by no means a stingy price for a rather disappointing

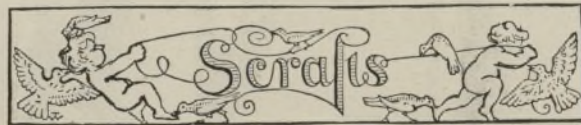
animal. Royal Gem reached the same figure; 1,200 guineas was given for Savile, a thoroughly sound horse, and a good stayer; and 1,000 for Fulmen. Since we last wrote, the deaths have been announced of two well-known jockeys—James Grimshaw, the once-famous light-weight associated with the career of the Marquis of Hastings, and Robert Sly, who, a generation ago, was Lord Clifden's trainer and jockey. Sly was eighty; Grimshaw little more than half that age. Of the Boxing-Day Meetings we shall treat next week.

FOOTBALL does not stop even on Christmas Day. Several of the Northern clubs brought off matches on that date. As for Boxing Day there is hardly a player in the kingdom who does not "don the knickerbockers"—favourite phrase of the sporting reporter—then. Northern tours, too, are now beginning. The Casuals opened theirs on the 26th, after having a match in London every day (tarring Sundays and Christmas Day) during the previous fortnight, and on the 29th the Corinthians, who scored an eleven goal to love victory over Gloucestershire on the previous Saturday, followed suit. All the "Leaguers" were engaged on Saturday, the result of the matches being to leave Preston North End at the head of affairs, with Aston Villa second; but Wolverhampton Wanderers, with a victory over Stoke, displaced Blackburn Rovers, who succumbed to West Bromwich Albion, from third place. In the London Charity Cup the Swifts (holders) beat Clapton, and the Old West-minsters defeated London Caledonians.

BILLIARDS.—Although Mitchell played probably as well as ever he did in his life, he could never quite get on terms with White, who eventually won by 614 points. The winner is a very cool and collected player, who plays the spot with great freedom, and he will be a hard nut for Peall to crack next week. The spot-stroke champion is to give his opponent 4,500 in 15,000—all in, of course. This week Peall and Mitchell are playing 8,000 up, spot-barred, on even terms.

CRICKET.—In spite of the good batting of Abel (38 and 26), the English cricketers at the Cape lost their first match against a Twenty-two of the Western Province District, though only by 17 runs. This will put them on their mettle. Pougher has reconsidered his decision to leave Leicestershire, and has been engaged by the county club for a further term of years.

SWIMMING.—Fifteen hardy spirits turned up at the Serpentine at 7.30 on Tuesday to take part in the annual Christmas Morning Handicap. The winner was once more Mr. D. Ainsworth, who first won in 1872, and who was also successful in 1876 and 1881.



THE EMPRESS FREDERICK is said to be preparing for publication a selection of her late husband's letters and notes on public events.

THE GREAT DUKE OF WELLINGTON's cocked hat, military cloak, and Hessian boots, which he wore at the Battle of Waterloo are now preserved together by an English collector. The hat bears one large black cockade, and three small ones in the colours of Spain, Portugal, and the Netherlands, together with a straight upright plume, which could be removed at will.

A LADY has carried off the grand prize of mathematical science in Paris. The Académie des Sciences has awarded the Bordin prize for an essay on perfecting the theory of the movement of the solid body to Madame Sophie Kovalefsky. The winner is a Professor at Stockholm University, and a lineal descendant of Mathias Corvinus, King of Hungary from 1450 to 1490.

THE FICKLENESS OF POPULARITY is being felt by President Cleveland even in minor details. Within the last three years figures of the President adorned most of the New York Bowery clothing shops as dummies to display the stock in trade. But now the faces of the dummies have been altered to resemble the President elect, so that General Harrison proudly shows off the style of the goods.

A CHANGE IN THE JEWISH SABBATH is being seriously considered by American Israelites. The present arrangement greatly damages business interests, for the Jews are thus obliged to stop work two days in the week, not daring to open on the Sunday. In New York many of the Jewish journals strongly advise their co-religionists to keep their Sabbath on the Christian Sunday, as no Jewish law forbids the change.

THE NEW VICEROY OF INDIA must have been considerably amused by some of the inscriptions adorning the streets when he landed in Bombay. The Association for the Preservation of Cows, for instance, took the opportunity to combine loyalty with business, and hung out innumerable strips of bunting, with such suggestions as the following:—"The Cow is the Wealth of India;" "No Happiness for India's People Without the Cow;" "The Cow is a Part of India's Family;" "No Indian Agriculture Without the Cow;" "The Cow is India's Foster-Mother;" "The Cow Helps Indian Agriculture;" "The Saving of the Cow Will Extend Cultivation;" "God Bless the Cow."

THE NEW YEAR'S FAIR is now in full activity on the Paris Boulevards, and loungers are looking out for the topical "question of the day" which annually amuses them in their holiday-times. So far the "hit" of the season is the cardboard Eiffel Tower, which is run very close in popularity by the "Cartouche Lebel," which can be turned into a knife, pair of scissors and ink-eraser, by extracting the bullet; and the "Promeneuse," a little metal female figure holding an umbrella, which walks when wound up. For more important étrences, flowers and sweets stand foremost; and society hostesses find their rooms perfectly crowded with such acknowledgements of hospitality received. Flowers are no longer tortured into devices or crammed into wheelbarrows, odd baskets, and so forth, but small bouquets are in fashion, and the blossoms are estimated more by quality than quantity. Orchids are prime favourites, and posies—like our English fashionable bouquets—of most choice blooms, so that each flower shows separately. Sweets are contained in every imaginable receptacle, the newest being hidden away in seasonable holly and ivy faggots, sunflowers and big tulips, not to mention the favourite *sabot*. Military toys are always liked by French boys, so this year the great novelty is "The Autumn Manœuvres," which represents a rural scene adapted for the operations, peopled by unlimited soldiers and a villa in the distance, where the officers are being hospitably entertained by fair hostesses. Miniature photographic cameras are also in request. Dolls' furniture of every description appeals to the girls, and every item of the dolls' house must be so complete that the wardrobes are filled with wearing apparel, the linen presses with household plenishing, and the cupboards with plate and china. For older sisters writing-sets form the most orthodox gift, and one daughter of an eminent politician receives a silver-embossed toilet-set from her father's political sympathisers. Married ladies are offered jewellery—no new styles this year—artistic lamps and shades, and fur of all kinds, especially narrow fur-bordering sets for trimming dresses. There is, quite a rage among French girls and young married women for gilding common wicker baskets, bending them into quaint shapes, and decking them with huge bunches of coloured ribbons, according to the favourite hues of the friend for whom the gift is intended.

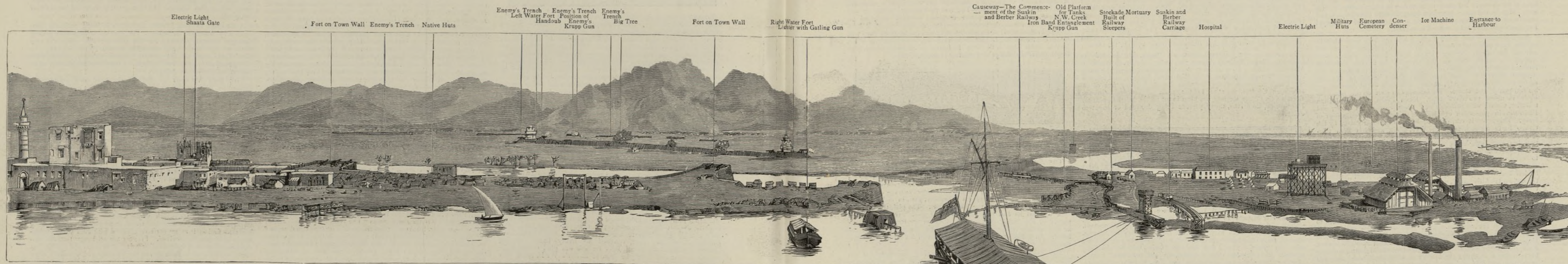


THE TENTH SOUDANESE MARCHING ACROSS THE DESERT FROM THE NILE TO KOSSEIR, FOR THE RELIEF OF SUAKIN



1. Troops resting near Bir el Moella, at a Rain-pool, after two days' hard marching
2. Encampment at Bir el Gash
3. Gebel Hummus, between the Red Sea and the Nile
4. The Column arriving at Bir el Inglesi, or the English Wells, dug by Sir David Baird, in 1801

THE MARCH OF BLACK TROOPS ACROSS THE DESERT FROM THE NILE TO KOSSEIR FOR THE RELIEF OF SUAKIN



GENERAL VIEW OF THE TOWN AND ITS DEFENCES, FROM A RECENT SKETCH BY A NAVAL OFFICER

The town of Suakin stands on a peninsula joined by a causeway to the mainland, where El Kaff, as the native town is called, is situated. This latter is a collection of mud huts and poor dwellings, the rich residents and merchants living in large, lofty houses on the peninsula. The peninsula could easily have been defended by a few men-of-war and a fort on the land-end of the causeway,

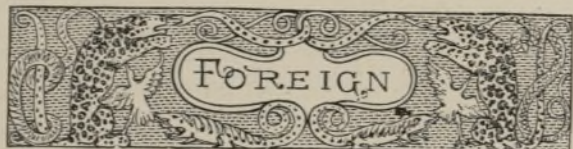
but to protect the native town a semicircle of forts was erected, ranging from 800 to 1,000 yards distance from the town. At the distance of some thousand yards further, on a natural embankment, are the Shaata and Gemaizeh, or Right and Left Water Forts—so-called because they were erected to protect the wells which supplied the town. It was on this embankment that the British

troops were stationed at the commencement of the engagement on the 20th instant in order to protect by their volley-firing the advance of the black troops on the enemy's trenches. These forts have mainly sustained the fire of the enemy during the past few months, the Arab entrenchments being

constructed in front of them. The forts, however, have held their own throughout, and have inflicted much loss upon the Arabs by the excellent and continuous fire which they have maintained. The British ships of war in the harbour have also done good service by shelling the Arab trenches. As may be seen in our illustration, the country inland slopes upward through stony plains or valleys dotted

with mimosa and bunch grass. The hills rise sharply from the table-land, and everywhere the surface is furrowed, often very deeply and precipitously, by "wadys" and "khors." In such deiles as these, the Arabs besieging Suakin have found shelter. Further westward are Handoub and Hasheen, whither the Arabs retreated after their defeat on the 20th inst.

THE CAMPAIGN AT SUAKIN



GENERAL GRENELL'S victory at Suakin has completely cleared the ground immediately before Suakin of the enemy, and strong forts are now being erected on the site of the Arab trenches which will effectually prevent the Dervishes from again besieging and harassing the town as they have done for the past few months. Much regret is being expressed that the troops are not doing more than this, and that they have not followed up their victory by marching upon Handoub, Hasheen, and Tokar, whither the enemy has retreated, and driving the Dervishes back upon Berber. As it is, the King's Own Borderers and part of the Black troops were to return to Egypt on Thursday, and all further active operations suspended—a fairly strong garrison, however, being left for the present. The detailed accounts of the battle of Thursday week state that the Black regiments under Colonel Kitchener and Colonel Holled Smith bore the chief brunt of the fighting, and displayed the utmost coolness and courage throughout—thus proving that there is plenty of good fighting material in Egypt if well organised and officered by Europeans. The main disposition of our forces was as follows:—After H.M.S. *Racer* and the other war vessels had begun the day by vigorously shelling the enemy's trenches our little army moved out of Suakin at 6 A.M., the Cavalry leading, the Black troops in two brigades coming next, and the British infantry bringing up the rear. These last took up their positions on the embankment (see our double page illustration for plan of the ground) to cover the advance of the Black regiments, who by a flank movement marched steadily upon the extreme left and rear of the enemy. Reserving their fire until within two hundred yards of the trenches, the Blacks then lay down and raked the main trench for fully a quarter of a mile. In a very short time the Dervishes showed signs of wavering, and then the Blacks led by their British officers delivered a most determined charge, and, despite a desperate resistance on the part of the Arabs, drove them out at the point of the bayonet. The Arabs fled precipitately, the 20th Hussars were despatched in pursuit, and the day was won. The loss of the enemy was severe, about four hundred being found dead in the trenches and on the field. Our loss numbered four Hussars and six Blacks killed, Lieutenant Brown of the Royal Irish Rifles, Lieutenant David of the Marines, a private of the King's Scottish Borderers, a Quartermaster Sergeant of the Egyptian Army, and thirty-seven of the Black and Egyptian troops slightly wounded. The casualties in the Hussars occurred through two troops being suddenly brought to a check in the pursuit by a hidden "Khor" water-course, which threw them into temporary confusion, and gave the enemy an opportunity to make an unexpected onslaught.

As soon as the enemy retreated, General Grenfell at once occupied the ground, and four zaribas of sand-bags were constructed. The Arabs left little of value behind them save the two guns with which they had been bombarding the forts, and which were joyfully seized upon by the 9th and 11th Black regiments. The troops bivouacked on the field that night, and next day reconnaissances were made towards Handoub and Hasheen, but no renewal of fighting took place. General Grenfell paraded all the forces, had the messages of congratulation from the Queen and the Khedive read to them, and himself said a few words to the troops in praise of their steadiness and gallantry. Further reconnaissances took place on Saturday, very few natives, however, being seen, and spies from Handoub reported the place full of wounded, and that complete demoralisation and despondency prevailed amongst the Arabs. On Sunday there was a general Church parade, and on Monday the cavalry rode out again to within two miles of Hasheen. On Tuesday, Christmas festivities were observed with much enjoyment in camp. Divine Service was celebrated in the morning, and in the afternoon there were sports and races, and in the evening dinner and concerts. On Wednesday the Mounted Infantry went out on a long reconnaissance and brought in one prisoner, but saw no force of the enemy. No time is being lost in constructing the new forts. Masons and stone-cutters are being brought from Jeddah, and their work is to be superintended by a detachment of the Royal Engineers who have been ordered from Suez.

News of Stanley and Emin Pasha has at last been received, both on the East and West Coasts of Africa. At Zanzibar Tippoo Tib arrived last week, bearing letters from Stanley Falls, dated August 29, stating that on the previous day a letter had been received from Stanley, who on August 17th was at Bonalya, on the Aruimi River. He had seen Emin Pasha, whom he had left eighty-two days previously, having come back to the Aruimi for his rear-guard and stores. He intended to start on his return to Emin in about two days' time. Emin Pasha and the Italian traveller, Casati, were perfectly well when Stanley left them, and Emin was in possession of plenty of stores and vast quantities of ivory. This news is corroborated by intelligence received by the Congo State authorities on the West Coast, and has been telegraphed home from the island of St. Thome. Further confirmation has also been brought to Zanzibar by one of the special messengers who was sent two months ago into the interior to obtain news of Emin from some of the trading caravans coming to the coast from the Great Lakes. He states that he has heard from some traders who left the Albert Nyanza in the early part of the year that the meeting between Stanley and Emin took place on January 20th at Wadelai, where Stanley had arrived with two white officers and three hundred and thirty men and plenty of stores. Stanley and his men were much exhausted by the great privations which they had endured, having had to make a large detour to avoid swamps and hostile tribes. Emin Pasha is stated to have been in the main in a good position, though some of his Egyptian officers were grumbling, and the Kings of Uganda and Unjoro were still hostile to him. A fortnight after Stanley's arrival, Emin received by way of Lado a message from the Mahdi announcing his intention of subduing the country as far as the Great Lakes, and promising him life and good treatment if he would deliver up Wadelai and the surrounding country. To this summons Emin and Stanley replied that Emin had been entrusted with the care of Wadelai and the Equatorial Province, and that before evacuating these territories he must wait for the Mahdi to prove the legitimacy of his claim to their possession. Towards the middle of April news had arrived of the advance of a considerable Mahdist force, and Emin had ordered his advanced posts at Duffill, and between that place and Lado, to fall back upon Wadelai, while Stanley sent messengers to the Kings of Uganda and Unjoro. About the end of April, Stanley became anxious about his rear-guard and stores on the Aruimi, and it is now manifest that he must have gone himself thither to look after them. Before the traders left, however, he had sent couriers both to the East and West Coasts with despatches for Europe, giving particulars of his arrival. As for Emin, it is just possible that the news forwarded by Osman Digna to General Grenfell may be true, and that he is in the power of the Mahdi. The white traveller with him in such a case would not be Stanley, but the Italian, Casati, Stanley being the other traveller mentioned as having been on a visit to Emin.

In GERMANY preparations are now evidently being made for taking vigorous action in Eastern Africa, and it is stated that Lieutenant

Wissmann has been appointed to special service "in connection with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs." If this is true, the only interpretation can be that his expedition will not be a private, but a Government enterprise. The avowed object will be the relief of Emin; but, if the story proves true that he is in the Mahdi's hands, Lieutenant Wissmann and his followers are to act in support of the "anti-slavery operations," whatever these may be. Meanwhile there has been more fighting at Bagamoyo, where the Germans landed another force and attacked the natives. Christmas festivities have mainly occupied the attention of Germany this week, and the only noteworthy item is that the semi-official Press have started a crusade against our Ambassador at St. Petersburg, Sir Robert Morier, who is very unpopular with the Germans, and who is now accused of having supplied Bazaine with information regarding the movements of German troops during the Franco-German Campaign.

FRANCE has given itself up to the Christmas holidays, and there is very little news of outside interest. On Monday M. Goblet made a speech in the Senate on the vexed question of the Newfoundland Fisheries and the Treaty with England. Admiral Veron had complained that the Newfoundland Parliament had prohibited the sale of bait to French fishermen, and that the English had erected on what is called by the Treaty the "French Shore," workshops for the manufacture of preserved lobsters. M. Goblet promised that the Government would see that the Treaty-rights of France were respected, stated that the French fishermen had been able to do without the bait, but that, with regard to the English industries established on the "French Shore," of which the French themselves only occupied a fifth part—those "would be made to disappear," and negotiations would be opened with England, in order to secure the suppression of part of the lobster-works. To turn to home politics, M. Hude, a Deputy for Paris, having died, General Boulanger is once more to the fore in announcing that he will contest the seat. The worthy General, however, has somewhat changed his front, and now announces that he supports M. Reinach in his desire for the repeal of the law exiling French Princes. "The first act of my Government," he has remarked, "if the country raised me to the Presidency of the Republic, would be to repeal the banishment laws, re-admit everybody, and open to all Frenchmen that France which I love too ardently not to comprehend how burdensome and irritating exile must be, and what a bad counsellor." Considering what part General Boulanger took in exiling the Duc d'Aumale, whom he now so ardently wishes to recall, this declaration is somewhat amusing. In Paris the Empress Eugénie has been staying in Paris with the Duchesse de Mouchy, and on Monday attended service at Notre Dame. The new British Victoria Church was opened on Wednesday. M. Bex, the defaulting stockbroker, has committed suicide at Geneva.

The crisis in SERBIA is attracting general European attention, not from any special interest in that kingdom or sympathy with its ruler, but from the feeling that any outbreak must result in Russian interference, and thus bring about an eventual conflict between Russia and Austria. King Milan, however, is bending to the Radical storm, and is making numerous concessions in the Revised Constitution. These include the abolition of capital punishment for political offences, save for attempts on the life of the King and Crown Prince, of the right of arrest without warrant, of the right of the King to sign treaties of commerce without the consent of the Skupshtina, and confers on that body the control of the financial affairs of the kingdom and the right of impeaching the Ministry.

In INDIA the Native Congress was opened at Allahabad on Wednesday, Mr. George Yule delivering the inauguration speech, complaining of the present system of Government, and proposing numerous "reforms." A punitive expedition is to be once despatched against the Lushais, who have been raiding on the Chittagong border. On the 13th inst. they attacked the village of Pakuma, murdered forty-three men, women, and children, and carried away a large number of women. The Tibetan negotiations are now proceeding, as the Chinese Ampa or legate arrived at Gnatong on the 22nd inst. He brought a body-guard of some fifty Chinese soldiers picturesquely dressed half in red, half in white, with large banners of corresponding colours, and armed with spears and halberds. He himself travelled in a green sedan chair, supported by six bearers, with thirty-two coolies assisting with drag-ropes. He was received with much ceremony by the Political officer. From BURMA the chief news relates to the operations on the Chin frontier, who are to be superintended by Sir George White at Kamballa. The Tounghoo-Mandalay railway is practically completed, and is expected to be opened throughout for both passenger and goods traffic by Feb. 15, 1889.

In CANADA the Supreme Court at Ottawa has decided the Canadian Pacific Railway dispute in favour of the Province of Manitoba, which is pronounced to have the right to charter the much opposed Portage Extension of the Red River Railway, and to cross the Pembina branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway free of all Dominion Control, save as to the place of crossing.—In the UNITED STATES a steamer has been burnt on the Mississippi, near Plaquemine, Louisiana, thirty persons being drowned or burnt to death.



THE QUEEN spent Christmas at Osborne with the Empress Frederick and her three daughters, Princess Louise, Prince and Princess Henry, and Lord Lorne. Prince and Princess Henry rejoined Her Majesty in the Isle of Wight on Saturday, having stayed a day or two in town on their way home from Darmstadt. On Sunday the Royal party attended Divine Service at Osborne, where Canon Duckworth officiated; in the evening the Canon dined with the Queen. Next day Princess Louise and her husband arrived. On Christmas Day Her Majesty and the Royal Family attended Divine Service at Osborne, the Rev. A. Peile officiating. The Royal party received no guests at their Christmas dinner, where the menu included the traditional boar's head, baron of beef, and game-pie. Among the Christmas gifts of Her Majesty were the minor Bounty and the Royal Gate Alms, distributed on Saturday to one thousand aged and deserving London poor, while next Tuesday the Royal New Year's Gifts of beef, clothing, and coals, will be presented to the poor of Windsor and the neighbourhood.

The Prince and Princess of Wales kept their twenty-fifth Christmas at Sandringham quite alone, with their family. The Princess with her daughters and Prince George arrived first. Prince and Princess Albert Victor followed on Saturday, the Prince of Wales having remained in town to unveil the new statue of the Duke of Wellington. On Sunday the Royal party attended Divine Service at Sandringham Church, where the Rev. F. Hervey officiated, and on Christmas Eve they presided at the annual distribution of beef to the labourers on the Royal estate, the Prince having bestowed similar gifts every Christmas since he became owner of Sandringham. The Prince and Princess and family also attended Divine Service at St. Mary Magdalene's on Christmas Day, the Rev. F. Hervey again officiating. The Prince and Princess will remain a short time longer at Sandringham before resuming their public engagements. They will visit Middlesbrough on January 23.



THE MUSIC OF 1888.—Notwithstanding the well-marked change which has come over the spirit of matters musical, *entrepreneurs* still hesitate to take advantage of the public likes and dislikes till long after the opportunity has passed. At the present time, the early spring and the early autumn are the periods when concerts pay best; but comparatively few concerts are then given. Eighty or ninety performances a week were announced in the month of June, with disastrous results; for, in order to fill concert-rooms, free tickets were distributed wholesale, and the glut of "deadheads" half ruined legitimate business. August, of course, was spent in holiday-making; but although the great middle classes, who are the largest and most important section of paying concert-goers, mostly return in September, the demand for music was met in that month by only the Promenade Concerts, whose director accordingly reaped a golden harvest. In early October the Crystal Palace Concerts began, and, as they for a few weeks practically had the monopoly, they also attracted very large audiences. Early in November the whole host of belated concert-givers commenced business almost simultaneously, with the result that, amid the plethora of music public interest was divided. Choral Concerts had the largest audiences, but the majority of the performances were orchestral, or hackneyed pianoforte recitals.

OPERA IN 1888.—Passing into details, it is a remarkable fact that the Opera, which at one time was considered the highest form of music, has, so far as London is concerned, now dwindled down to forty-eight performances in Italian, during which not a single new work was produced. The Russian Opera deservedly collapsed, and of English Opera, save as to a few scratch performances by students, and at the East End, we have not had a trace. At the Italian Opera Miss M'Intyre, without being in any way a great *prima donna*, has achieved fair success, and, by inviting the aid of amateurs, the manager has greatly improved his chorus. Otherwise the operatic year has been a blank.

CHORAL MUSIC IN 1888.—Happily in choral music England can show a more satisfactory record. The wave of public opinion has now again risen in favour of this branch, which never stood higher in popular estimation than at the present time. Moreover, the tendency in choral music is progressive. The Sacred Harmonic Society has at last been wound up, solely because it could not keep abreast with the times. In its place the outlying choral associations have advanced by leaps and bounds. People who used to come from the suburbs to St. James's Hall now find oratorio performances practically at their own doors. Not many West End choirs can, for example, beat the Finsbury Choral Association for sheer merit, while that body and the Hackney, Highbury, Bow and Bromley, and other choirs are constantly producing novelties, of which audiences at St. James's and the Albert Hall are ignorant. We have also to record the successful holding of the Handel Festival under greatly improved artistic conditions, and the production at Hereford of Mr. Cowen's Melbourne Ode, and at Birmingham of Parry's *Judith* and Bridge's *Calvary*. The whole of the important choral novelties of the year have been from the pens of English musicians.

NOTES AND NEWS.—The only concerts given during the past week are the last Saturday Popular Concert, at which Brahms' *Gipsy Songs* were again performed, performances of the *Messiah* at Olympia and at the Albert Hall, and concerts by the Stock Exchange Orchestral Society and by the Royal College and Royal Academy Students. Details are unnecessary.—Sir Arthur Sullivan's new music for *Macbeth*, at the Lyceum, includes a full overture in regular form, *entr'actes*, choruses and songs for the Witches' Scene and festival music for the Banquet. It will all doubtless soon also be heard at concerts.—Dr. Joachim's daughter has just made a successful *début* at Berlin as a vocalist.—The famous American composer and musician, Mr. Frederic Grant Gleason, is daily expected in England to attend the conference of the National Society of Professional Musicians at Cambridge next week.—Madame Patti will return next week to London from Paris.—A letter from one of his friends states that little Josef Hofmann is studying seriously at Berlin under the charge of Professor Heinrich Urban.



THE LORD CHANCELLOR has given it as his opinion that it is not desirable for a County Court Judge to be a member of a County Council.

THE *Scottish Leader*, established a few years since to act as the daily Edinburgh organ of the Gladstonians in Scotland, has been prosecuted by an Antrim Protestant Episcopal clergyman for an alleged libel in a letter published by it from a Belfast correspondent. In this he was charged with getting up a bogus outrage on himself, in which his sons were to play a prominent part, in order to establish a grievance against the Nationalists. The plaintiff declared that, whereas he had previously been on good terms with all the people in his parish, the majority of whom are Roman Catholics, he was socially boycotted by the latter after the appearance of the letter. An Edinburgh jury gave a verdict in his favour, damages 100l.

THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY having summoned, at the Mansion House, a passenger by one of its trains from Stratford to Fenchurch Street, for travelling in a second-class carriage with a third-class ticket, evidence was adduced to prove that in that particular early train there never was room enough for the workmen passengers, and that there was generally a free fight for the seats in the third-class carriages. Accordingly, Mr. Alderman Tyler not only dismissed the summons, but gave the defendant 10s. 6d. costs, and advised the Company to supply more accommodation for that particular train.

A CASE OF SOME INTEREST to cigar-smokers has been adjudicated on by the Dalston police-magistrate. It was proved, the Board of Customs prosecuting, that a firm of London cigar-merchants, having received from Antwerp a quantity of cigars with the label "manufactured in Belgium," pasted over it others in Spanish, so as to induce purchasers to believe that they were Spanish cigars, and inferentially Havannahs. The magistrate fined each of the two defendants 5l. and costs, but as they had facilitated the inquiries of the Customs House officers, he did not order the confiscation of the cigars, valued at 700l.

A LOCAL BOOKSELLER has been sentenced at the Liverpool Assizes to fourteen days' imprisonment and a fine of 200l. for selling the English translation of Zola's novel, "La Terre." On account of the delinquent's poverty the fine was afterwards reduced to 20l.

EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHT

GREAT BRITAIN.—In our own country the year 1888 has not been marked by any events of the first order of importance. Political discussion has, however, gone on without interruption, and the year has been made memorable by the passing of at least one measure—the Local Government Act—which, both directly and indirectly, may hereafter exercise a profound influence on the development of our national life.

Parliament met on February 9th. New Rules of Procedure were introduced, and some changes were made; but afterwards it was found that they were not of much practical service. As the Session advanced, so many members indulged their passion for talk that an Autumn Session became necessary; and, accordingly, Parliament was adjourned on August 13th. It reassembled in November, and continued to sit until Christmas Eve. During the adjourned Session time was still recklessly wasted; and, at the close of the year, there is in the country a very general feeling that, if Parliamentary institutions are not to fall into utter contempt, the House of Commons must recover control over its own proceedings by some more drastic method than any yet submitted to its notice.

Early in the Session Mr. Goschen introduced a scheme for the conversion of the Funds; and, to the great advantage of our financial system, the Bill embodying his plan became law. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was not quite so successful with his Budget, one important part of which—his proposal relating to a Wheel Tax—met with much opposition, and had to be abandoned.

By far the greatest measure of the Session was the Local Government Bill, submitted to the House of Commons by Mr. Ritchie on March 19th. A great outcry was raised against the licensing clauses, and they were withdrawn. The settlement of various other matters relating to Local Government was also postponed; but in its main outlines the Bill, as proposed by Mr. Ritchie, was adopted; and even Radical politicians were compelled to admit that the Government deserved credit for the boldness with which it had grappled with a great and complicated problem. The effect of the Act will be that every county will henceforth manage its own affairs by means of a freely elected Council. For the purposes of the Act London, like a number of other towns, is treated as a separate county; the City Corporation, however, being allowed to retain its ancient rights within its own sphere. The passing of the clauses relating to London was facilitated by the disgust which had been excited by the gross abuses brought to light by the Commission appointed to investigate certain charges against the Metropolitan Board of Works. It was universally felt that there was urgent need in the capital for a governing body responsible to the ratepayers.

Ireland, as usual, occupied a vast amount of the attention of Parliament. An angry and prolonged discussion arose in connection with a Bill providing a salary for the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Ireland. This office was held by Colonel King-Harman, after whose death, on June 10th, the measure was withdrawn. A resolution censuring the Irish policy of the Government was proposed by Mr. John Morley on June 25th, and was debated during two evenings. It was finally rejected by a majority of 366 votes to 273.

An action brought by Mr. O'Donnell against the *Times* was begun in July, and much excitement was created by the consequences of a speech delivered in Court by the Attorney-General, by whom the *Times* was represented. Mr. Parnell asked that a Select Committee should be appointed to consider the charges brought against him and his colleagues by the *Times*, and formally stated by the Attorney-General. This request was declined by Mr. W. H. Smith, who reminded Mr. Parnell that the Courts of Justice were open to him. Ultimately, however, the Government proposed that the subject should be investigated by a Judicial Commission; and the Bill, after bitter wrangling, was adopted. The Commission, consisting of Sir James Hannen, Mr. Justice Day, and Mr. Justice Smith, held a preliminary meeting on September 17th; and, on October 22nd, it seriously began its labours, which, if we may judge by the rate of progress hitherto made, are not likely to be soon brought to an end.

In the course of the Autumn Session another measure relating to Ireland occasioned a great amount of discussion. This was a Bill providing funds—five millions sterling—for the continued operation of Lord Ashbourne's Land Purchase Act of 1885. The Bill was opposed by the Parnellites and (with some exceptions) by the Gladstonians; but, in the end, it received the sanction of Parliament.

In his conduct of foreign policy, Lord Salisbury has been able, as a rule, to secure the approval of all parties. His dominant aim has been to strengthen the influences which make for peace, and the result has been that the relations of England with all the Great Powers have been more than usually friendly. Some opposition was, however, excited when it was announced that he had agreed that England should co-operate with Germany for the suppression of the slave trade on the East African coast. Most Englishmen doubted whether Prince Bismarck took much real interest in this question, and they disliked the idea of their country even seeming to be in any way associated with the German East African Company. The understanding is that we shall act only on sea, over a limited area, to prevent the export of slaves and the import of arms; and if this understanding is strictly adhered to, no great harm can come of it, and some good may perhaps be done. In the Eastern Sudan, a great deal of trouble was caused during the year by the persistent enmity of the Mahdi, who was energetically represented in the neighbourhood of Suakin by Osman Digna. At last the Government resolved to send reinforcements to that beleaguered port, and to drive the dervishes away. Lord Randolph Churchill, without giving notice of his intention, warned the House of Commons that, in the opinion of the highest military authorities in England, the reinforcements were inadequate, and entreated the House to prevent what seemed to him useless bloodshed. The House of Commons declined to interfere, and, on the morning of December 20th, a battle was fought, in which Osman Digna was, without serious difficulty, defeated. For the moment, Suakin is free from danger, but whether it will remain secure depends upon the wisdom of the Government in their dealings with the native tribes, who, it seems, are disposed to be friendly on condition that we do not seek to subject them to Egyptian authority.

A few days before the battle Osman Digna sent a message to Suakin to the effect that Emin Pasha and a white traveller had been made prisoners at Lado. Grave fears as to the safety of Emin and Stanley were therefore entertained; but more trustworthy reports have since come both from the eastern and the western coasts of Africa. It seems that Stanley reached Wadelai in January, and was able to be of great service to Emin, whom he provided with supplies. Afterwards, becoming uneasy as to the safety of his rear-guard on the Aruwhimi, Stanley apparently began to retrace his steps, and he is said to have been at a place called Bonalya at the end of August. There is no reason to doubt the general truth of this account, but unfortunately we know nothing about the position of Emin, for the statement that he accompanied Stanley cannot, without further evidence, be accepted. That he was in no immediate danger when Stanley left him, we may regard as certain. An expedition for the relief of Emin has been organised in Germany, and Lieutenant Wissmann, who will conduct it, is about to start for Zanzibar to prepare for the undertaking.

Turning to other matters, we may note that the harvest, notwith-

standing an unusually cold and rainy summer, did not fall much, if at all, below the average. The condition of trade, although not particularly brilliant, has been fairly good; and the number of unemployed workmen seems at present to be smaller than it has been at the same time during the last few years. It is hoped that one particular trade—the sugar trade—may receive a considerable impetus from a convention for the abolition of sugar bounties signed at the Foreign Office on August 30th.

A Select Committee appointed by the House of Lords has been engaged in investigating the evils of the Sweating System in London, and the evidence, although in some cases exaggerated, has disclosed a deplorable state of things among the humblest class of workers in the East End.

A profound sensation has again and again been produced, not only in London, but all over the country, and, indeed, all over the civilised world, by a series of frightful murders in Whitechapel. In the peculiar circumstances connected with these outrages it is unreasonable to blame the detectives for having failed to track the criminal or criminals.

Of the social movements of the year one of the most important has been that for the establishment of recreative and technical institutes for the poorer classes of the community. Thanks to the Charity Commissioners and the Mercers' Company, a great institution of this kind is to be created at New Cross; and it is hoped that funds enough may be raised to provide, with the help of the Charity Commissioners, two others in the southern, and three in the northern, districts of London.

In the course of the year there has been an unusual number of more or less successful Exhibitions. In London we have had the Italian, the Anglo-Danish, and the Irish Exhibitions; and in Glasgow a great Exhibition, with brilliant financial results, attracted millions of sightseers.

During the last few weeks the sympathy of the entire nation has been aroused by the serious illness of Mr. Bright, whose splendid services as a statesman are remembered with gratitude by his countrymen.—We have lost many eminent men during the year. Among them were Mr. Matthew Arnold, Sir Henry Maine, Mr. Frank Holl, Mr. Coutts Trotter, Mr. Cotter Morison, Mr. Proctor, Lord Mount-Temple, Dr. Burgon, Mr. Laurence Oliphant, and Sir Frederick Pollock.

INDIA AND THE COLONIES.—The event of the year in India was the retirement of Lord Dufferin, who had won golden opinions as an administrator at once prudent and vigorous. He has been succeeded by Lord Lansdowne, whose record in Canada was so good that we may hope his career will be not less satisfactory in his present sphere. The difficulty in Sikkim, which threatened at one time to become serious, is not likely to give further trouble, the Tibetans having learned by experience that they are not a match for disciplined and well-armed troops. An expedition to the Black Mountain was also successful. Unfortunately, a raid by the Lushais has rendered necessary the immediate despatch of an expedition to the Chittagong hills. Before quitting India, Lord Dufferin uttered a word of warning as to the Indian National Congress, but authorities differ about the importance of the Congress and about the real nature of its demands.

In the Dominion of Canada Lord Stanley of Preston was sworn into office at Ottawa as Governor-General in succession to Lord Lansdowne. The Canadians bore with much dignity the rejection of the Fisheries Treaty by the Senate of the United States, and were not greatly alarmed by President Cleveland's proposal that the supposed wrongs of his country in connection with the fisheries should be avenged by "reprisals." The movement for commercial union between Canada and her powerful neighbour attracted a good deal of attention for several months, but the agitation seems to be dying out.—Early in the year the centenary of New South Wales was celebrated by the unveiling of a statue of the Queen at Sydney; and afterwards an Exhibition was opened at Melbourne. It is worthy of note, also, that in the latter city the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, which has been formed on the model of the British Association, held its first meeting. Queensland contrived to make itself conspicuous lately by declining to receive Sir Henry Blake as its Governor. Having at one time distinguished himself as a magistrate in Ireland, he was disliked by some of the Irish settlers in Queensland, and in deference to their protests his appointment was cancelled.—South Africa has been rather less troublesome than usual. For a while there was some uncertainty as to the significance of the rebellion of Dinizulu, in Zululand; but events proved that it was not important. In Cape Colony an ardent desire has been expressed for the annexation of Bechuanaland. Englishmen at home, however, are almost unanimously of opinion that that great region must remain directly under Imperial control.

FRANCE.—On March 30th, M. Tirard, having been defeated in the Chamber, resigned; and he was succeeded by M. Floquet. Since that time, the history of France has been practically the history of General Boulanger. A few days before M. Floquet's acceptance of office, the General had been dismissed from the French Army; and sanguine Republicans hoped that they had heard the last of him. In April, however, he was elected for the Department of the Nord by over 96,000 votes. On July 12th, a resolution moved by him in the Chamber having been rejected, he resigned his seat, and next day he was severely wounded in a duel with M. Floquet. Ridicule, which has so often destroyed reputations in France, in no way injured that of General Boulanger. He had scarcely recovered from his wound when he was elected a Deputy by three Departments, and it is now generally admitted that he is by far the most powerful man in France. That he aims at becoming a sort of Dictator no one doubts, and with large classes of the community the Republic has become so unpopular that his ambition may perhaps be gratified. The prospect of his success fills serious Frenchmen with dread, not only because they value liberty, but because they fear that he would make war with Germany inevitable.

The collapse of the Panama Canal Company has created less excitement than was anticipated. This is due in part to the fact that the shareholders, as a rule, subscribed from their savings, and are not therefore ruined by what has happened; partly also to their faith in M. de Lesseps, whom they still believe to be capable of overcoming the difficulties of the enterprise. General Boulanger makes a great show of sympathy with the shareholders, and is profiting by their resentment against the Chamber, to which they had confidently looked for aid.

Vigorous preparations are being made for the Exhibition which, in 1889, is to remind the world of the great things done in 1789. Whether the Exhibition will be opened under the auspices of a Republican Government it is impossible to foretell. In the mean time the Chamber and the Senate will have to decide whether they will accept a Revision Bill presented by M. Floquet. If this scheme is adopted, a Bill will be introduced for the purpose of substituting the "one man one vote" principle for the *Scrutin de Liste*.

GERMANY.—The death of two Emperors will make the year 1888 a memorable one in German history. William I. died on March 9th, at the age of ninety-one, and was sincerely mourned by his people, to whom his name had become a symbol of the momentous events which had brought about the unity of the Fatherland. He was succeeded by his son, Frederick III., who had won, by the qualities of his character and by his achievements in war, the respect

and affection of the nation. But before his accession he had been stricken by a mortal malady, and on June 15th he died.

William II., the son and successor of Frederick III., cannot be said to have produced a very favourable impression on Europe; but he has not yet been long enough on the throne to justify a very decided opinion as to his fitness for his great position. Almost immediately after he became Emperor he visited the Czar; and it was assumed, by some observers, that he proposed to change the direction of German policy. Afterwards, however, when he visited the Austrian Emperor and the King of Italy, it was seen that this was a mistake. At Rome he had an interview with the Pope, whom, it is understood, he took no particular pains to please.

Germany was profoundly agitated by the publication of some extracts from the Diary of the Emperor Frederick, who seemed to claim for himself a much larger share in the founding of the Empire than had been generally attributed to him. In an elaborate Report to the Emperor William II., Prince Bismarck sought to show that the document was not authentic. Nevertheless, Dr. Geffcken, who had given it to the editor of the *Rundschau*, was arrested, and is still kept in strict confinement.

The foreign policy of the Empire has been conducted quietly and, as usual, successfully. The like cannot be said of its colonial policy. The German East African Company has given so much deadly offence to the natives that it has been driven from the country it was to have civilised, and, if it is to recover its power, it will have to do so by hard fighting. In Samoa, also, the Germans have stirred up serious trouble by reckless disregard of native rights and customs.

AUSTRIA AND ITALY.—Not so very long ago it would have been impossible to name Austria and Italy together except as enemies or as oppressor and oppressed; but now they are both members of one great League of Peace, and may fitly be classed under a single heading, more especially as the domestic events of the year have not been remarkable in either country.

On December 2nd, the fortieth anniversary of the accession of the Emperor Francis Joseph was celebrated. The people would gladly have given emphatic testimony to their reverence for their Sovereign, for they know well how much they owe to his wisdom and self-control; but with his usual good taste he preferred that the occasion should be allowed to pass as quietly as possible.

During the year the official journals of Austria and Germany have repeatedly attacked one another with great asperity, but the alliance of the two Empires has never, of course, been for a moment in danger. At home the chief peril has sprung from the demands of the Czechs of Bohemia, who have persuaded themselves that their country ought to be self-governing to a much larger extent than it is at present. Count Taaffe, Prime Minister of the Cis-Leithan provinces, has caused some anxiety by admitting into his Cabinet a Minister who, although a Conservative on questions of general policy, expresses sympathy with Czech claims.

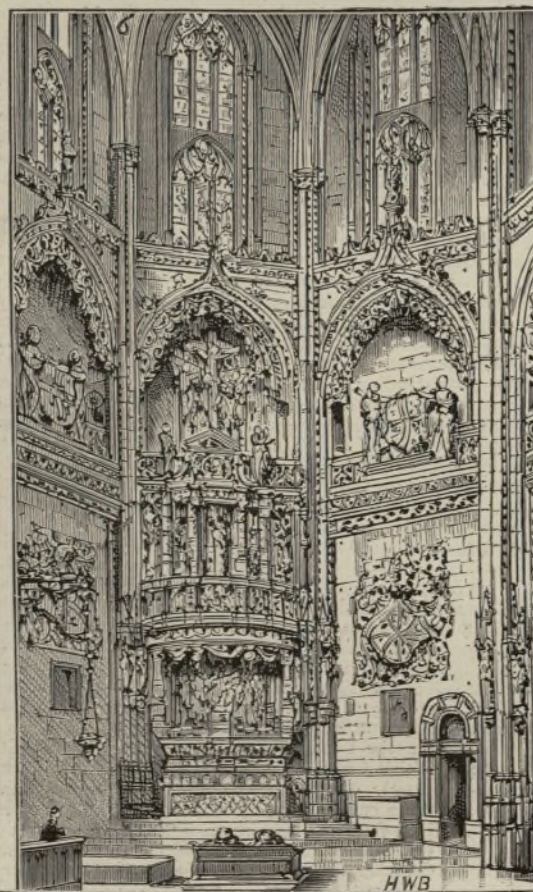
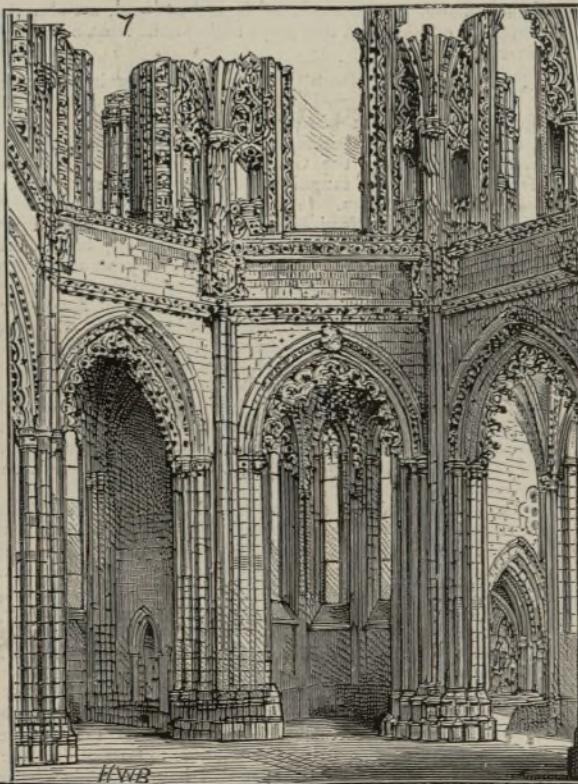
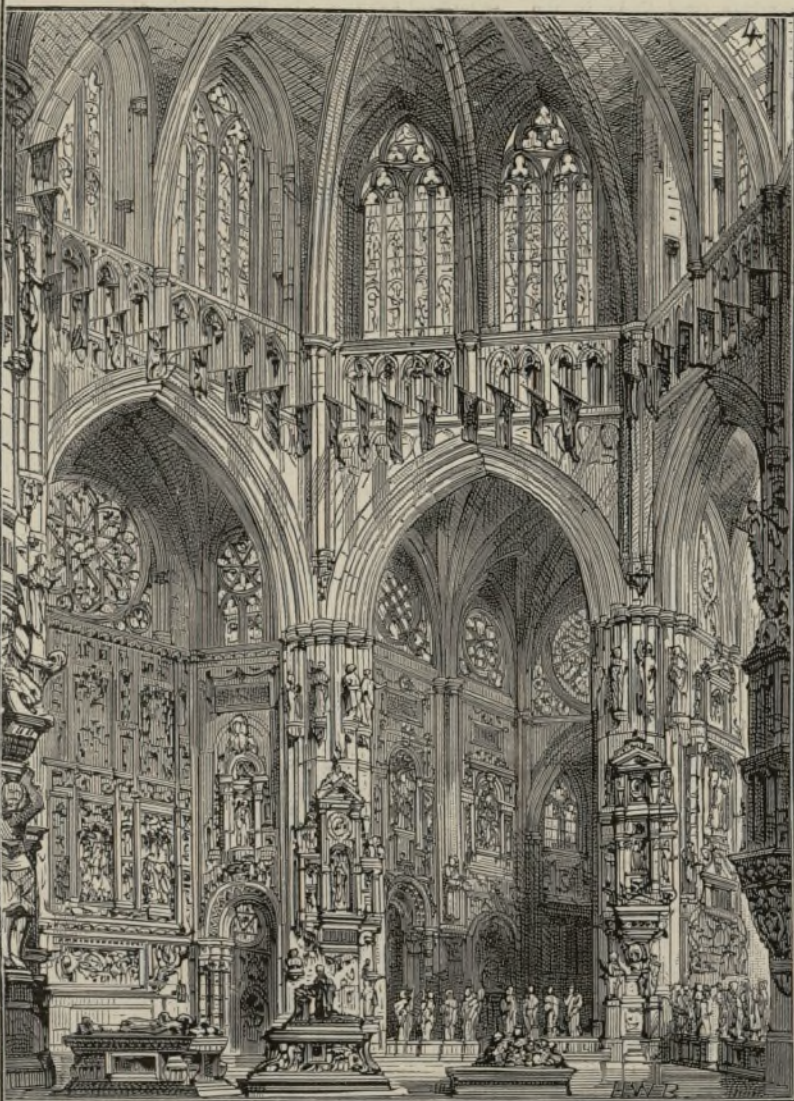
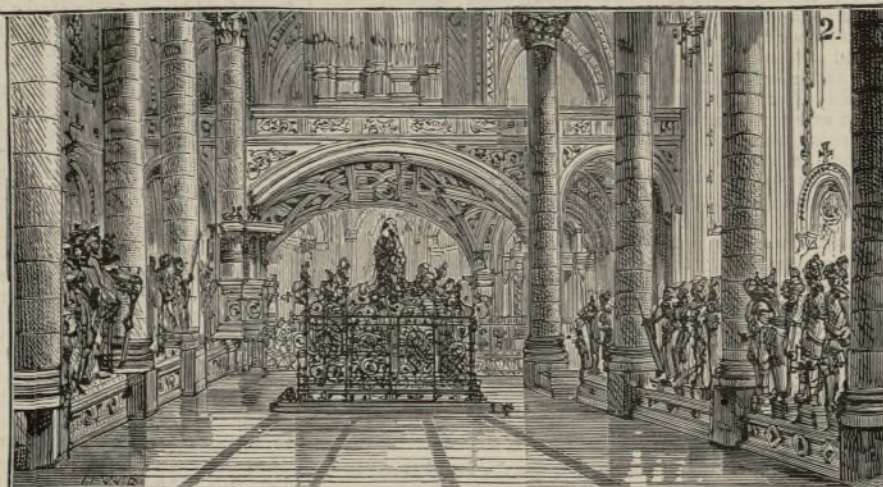
During the year the Italians have had some reason to doubt whether they acted prudently in taking possession of Massowah. It has involved them in trouble with Abyssinia, and—what is more important—the action of the French representative in the place led in the summer to the passing of some sharp words between the French and the Italian Governments. In one despatch Signor Crispi wrote with almost as much vehemence as if his country had resolved to go to war with France. The dispute came to an end, but it left behind it some rather unpleasant memories.

RUSSIA.—During the last twelve months, although Austria has repeatedly either been, or has professed to be, alarmed by the designs of Russia in South-Eastern Europe, Russia has done little to justify the fears expressed by her rival. Her agents may have been secretly at work in Bulgaria and Servia, but she has not publicly or directly interfered unduly in the affairs of these little States. Her ultimate aims are, however, the same as they have been for many years; and she has been slowly preparing the way for attaining them by reorganising and strengthening her military forces. To obtain the funds necessary for her undertakings, she has once more had recourse to borrowing, and has been gratified by the comparative ease with which her new loan has been floated in Paris. Whatever may be her financial embarrassments, Russia never seems to have any difficulty in strengthening her hold over Central Asia. In May, the Trans-Caspian Railway to Samarcand was opened, and telegraphic communication with Europe was established. She is justly proud of these achievements, and there can be no doubt that they will be of the greatest service to her both as a conquering and as a trading nation. For a week or two the Russians were much excited by the opening of the Karun River, an event which was supposed to be a triumph of British diplomacy in Persia at their expense. They have since been pacified by a promise on the part of the Shah to permit the residence of a Russian Consul at Meshed. In the autumn the Czar and Czarina enjoyed a prolonged tour in the Southern districts of the Empire. On their way back to St. Petersburg they had the misfortune to be involved in a terrible railway accident, from the effects of which, happily, both seem to have recovered.

BULGARIA AND SERVIA.—At the beginning of 1888 it was generally believed that before the end of the year Prince Ferdinand would have ceased to be the ruler of Bulgaria. He still, however, retains his place, and Russia has apparently no immediate intention of giving him notice to quit. A Cabinet "crisis" has given him much trouble during the last days of the year.—The King of Servia has made himself disagreeably conspicuous by the arbitrary manner in which he has divorced his wife, who, although of a troublesome temper, has not deserved the harsh treatment she has received. Partly, probably, in order to divert attention from this discreditable affair, he recently announced that he wished to secure the Revision of the Political Constitution of Servia. Accordingly a Commission was appointed to draw up a scheme; and now a Skuptschina has been elected to consider the Commission's proposals. The Radicals have secured a large majority, and it is not yet known how they propose to use their victory.

THE UNITED STATES.—The event of the year in the United States has been the election of a new President. When the contest began it was generally thought that the Democrats would win; but General Harrison, the Republican candidate, was chosen. When the election fever was at its height, Lord Sackville was imprudent enough to express, in a letter to a correspondent whom he did not personally know, his opinion as to the issues before the electors. This letter was published, and the ultimate result was that the American Government sent him his passports. In ordinary circumstances so rude a slight might have been resented; but England, knowing that it was only an incident in an electioneering campaign, designed for the gratification of Irish voters, troubled herself very little about the matter. Lord Sackville's successor, however, has not yet been appointed.

A treaty by which it was proposed to settle the long-standing dispute about the Canadian Fisheries, was signed on February 13th by the Commission that had been appointed to deal with the question. The Republicans had a majority in the Senate, and it was considered improbable that they would ratify a treaty which, if accepted, would be regarded as creditable to the Democratic Government. This view proved to be correct. When General Harrison is fairly established in the White House, the negotiations will no doubt be resumed; and it would not be surprising if he and his party, looking at the matter from a new point of view, discovered that, after all, there is much to be said for the proposals which commended themselves to the judgment of President Cleveland.



1. Cemetery of the Innocents, Paris, and Chapelle D'Orgement (From an old drawing)
2. Mausoleum of Maximilian, at Innsbruck

3. Exterior of Mausoleum at Westminster (a suggestion)
4. Interior of Mausoleum at Westminster (a suggestion)
5. St. Gereon at Cologne. (Mausoleum of the "Theban Legion")

6. "Chapel of the Constable," at Burgos
7. Unfinished Mausoleum of Don Emanuel, at Baratha, Portugal

THE PROPOSED ADDITION TO WESTMINSTER ABBEY
SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEW CAMPO SANTO

JAMES SELBY



THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE JAMES SELBY, THE CELEBRATED "WHIP"
THE COACHES AT HIGHGATE CEMETERY



1. Guatemala City
2. Indian Labourers

3. Preparing the Coffee Bean
4. Ruined Buildings in "Old Guatemala"

5. A Railway Bridge
6. Outside Guatemala City

VIEWS IN GUATEMALA



THE BISHOP OF ST. ASAPH'S mental condition is said to be such as to render him incapable of executing a valid resignation of his See. The Archbishop of Canterbury, it is also reported, is consulting the law officers of the Crown as to the means of removing the consequent deadlock.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS have subscribed 1,000*l.* in promotion of the South London Polytechnic Schemes (frequently referred to in our columns), in consideration of the educational advantages to be bestowed by the Institute on transpontine parishes in which the Commissioners hold a large amount of property.

MR. KINGLAKE, the historian of the Crimean War, points out through the Press that Archdeacon Farrar was in error when, at the unveiling of the Blake Memorial window in St. Margaret's, Westminster, and as reported in this column last week, he said that the only previous memorial of the great admiral was that erected to him at Bridgewater, his birthplace. Nearly thirty years since a marble bust of him, by the eminent sculptor Baily, was set up in the Shire Hall at Taunton, which he successfully held during a protracted siege by the Royalists.

THE INTERESTING COLLECTION OF BOOKS by English Roman Catholic writers, presented to the Pope as a Jubilee gift by the members of that communion in England, is, the *Tablet* correspondent at Rome intimates, to be handed over to the Canadian College which was opened in that city some weeks ago.

"SPECIAL EVANGELISTIC SERVICES" in the metropolis are, the *Nonconformist* says, about to be held under the auspices of the London Congregational Union and the pastors of the churches.

MR. HENRY TATE, of London and Liverpool, besides presenting 2,500*l.* to the Liverpool Institute to found four Tate Scholarships, has also founded a scholarship of sixty guineas annually as a memorial to the late Rev. Hugh Stowell Brown, to be held for two or three years at any college connected with any English University.

A BRASS TABLET in memory of the late Field-Marshal Lord Strathnairn has been placed in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral.



THE SEASON.—A "Green Christmas" is naturally less rare now than it was before the change of the Style threw the calendar back eleven days. We too frequently forget that all our weather proverbs are based upon Old Style dates, according to which Christmas would fall on autumn. This way of putting it may itself suggest a "Green Isle," an unfavourable weather period, because eight months were against us, and only four have been propitious. As, however, these four are the last four, we shall start on 1889 with a reasonable hope that a new order has already been well begun.

THE EARLY AUTUMN SEASON favoured the in-gathering of such crops as the dismal summer left us to gather, while the subsequent raising of roots was accomplished very satisfactorily, and without frost. The whole autumn was very suitable for wheat-sowing, and a good area was accordingly sown, the young plant now showing of a regular and even growth, and of a very healthy colour. Catch crops have also done well, especially where farmers lost no time in September in ploughing their stubbles. Lambing has begun in Dorsetshire, and is beginning in Hampshire. The natural date admits of being much anticipated where the mother is well fed with stimulating food. The early lambing counties are those where water-meadows abound, and also where early forage crops receive the special care of farmers. We are glad to hear of less distress than usual among agricultural labourers, and a mild December is always a great blessing to the poor.

SCOTLAND.—Early-sown wheat is now a healthy vigorous braid, notwithstanding the fact that the seed was in many cases an irregular sample, not having been well ripened. Some little remains to be sown, but this may be done with more advantage, and with the land in better order a few weeks hence, than at present. When out-door work is at a standstill, the farmer naturally turns his attention to his live stock. Sheep, on turnips, have had a bad time, and cannot have much weight. No doubt the roots are of good quality, not having been injured in any way by frost, and where fed on grass, the sheep must have done very well, except in exposed positions. Hill stock should be well fed, and arrangements made whereby hay and dry food is in readiness at reachable points in case of a heavy snowfall.

THE DAIRY.—The increased price of milk in the Northern and Midland towns has of late limited the make of cheese in Cheshire, and at Chester market the weekly offerings are not much more than half what they were at the end of 1887. The price of good cheese has advanced 5*s.* per cwt., quotations now being for good, 60*s.* to 68*s.*; for medium, 50*s.* to 60*s.*; and for common, 40*s.* to 50*s.* per cwt. Good milk cows are selling in Cheshire at 22*l.* to 24*l.* each. The demand for butter in 1888 has not increased as sanguine advocates of the Margarine Bill expected it would. The imitation is so cheap, that whilst the processes of its manufacture in a really palatable form are kept as secret as they are at present, the public will always contain a section willing to buy it, in preference to inferior butter, which has a way of being very inferior indeed.

AN ESSEX FARMER writes:—"The corn trade in this county is much depressed; wheat making only 32*s.* per qr. and barley 28*s.* per qr. These low prices are bringing about a revolution in agriculture. The price of land has come down fast, and farms have been sold at from 19*l.* down to 6*l.* per acre, some of them being of good, heavy soil. I know of two large farms of five to six hundred acres each, which have been let at half their former rent, and another farm has been let for eleven shillings per acre, tithe free."

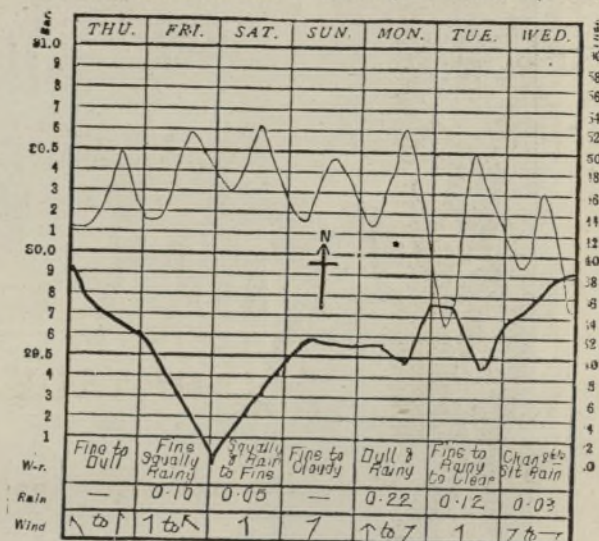
MEAT.—The following "tariff" appears in one of the penny dailies. It shows what a 90 stone beast, bought at 5*s.* per stone, could be sold for, if the butcher were content with a ten-shilling profit on each animal cut up. Sirloins, whole, 9*d.*, per lb.; ribs, whole, 9*d.*; ribs, back or top, 8*d.*; top side of round, 9*d.*; silver-side, 8*d.*; flank, 9*d.*; brisket, 6*d.*; beefsteak, 11*d.*; aitchbone, 6*d.*; leg and shins, 4*d.*; and rumpsteak, fifteenpence per lb.

NATURAL HISTORY NOTES.—A true hermaphrodite among the vertebrate animals is so rare, that the possibility of its occurrence has been doubted. It is difficult, however, to get over the evidence produced this week, of a herring which was found having both milt and roe in it.—The mild weather of early December led to various birds nesting. At Uffculme, in Devonshire, a blackbird's nest has been found with one egg in it; in a London suburb a thrush's nest with three eggs has been discovered; and at Hollington, near Hastings, three

unfledged starlings were discovered in a chimney on 17th December. —A pair of ger-falcons have recently been observed in the neighbourhood of Southend.—We are sorry to see that kingfishers, hawks, woodpeckers, and owls are advertised as ornaments for Christmas trees. The destruction of the British fauna does not need any hastening.—A very curious hawk-owl (*Surnia ulula*) new to England, has been added to the Zoological Gardens. Lord Linford caught it in Russian Finland.

WEATHER CHART

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1883.



EXPLANATION.—The thick line shows the variations in the height of the barometer during the week ending Wednesday midnight (26th inst.). The fine line shows the shade temperature for the same interval, and gives the maximum and minimum readings for each day, with the (approximate) time at which they occurred. The information is furnished to us by the Meteorological Office.

REMARKS.—The weather of the past week has remained in a mild, changeable, and unsettled state, but very little rain has fallen in the Metropolis, or its immediately neighbourhood. Barometrical pressure has been usually highest over Central and Northern Europe, and low to the Westward of our Islands, so that the prevailing winds have been Southerly. Several depressions have appeared off our Western Coasts, the most important being:—1. A large and deep disturbance which advanced to the West of Ireland on the night of the 20th, and which occasioned moderate South-Easterly or Southerly gales in most districts. 2. A secondary disturbance which advanced from the Southward to Central Ireland on the evening of the 21st. This system was at first very deep, and fresh to strong Southerly gales occurred at many of our Western and Southern Stations on the night of the 21st, but on the following day the disturbance moved slowly Eastwards, and finally dispersed over Wales and the West of England. 3. A depression which skirted our Western Coasts on the night of the 23rd, producing fresh Southerly gales in some parts of Ireland and Scotland, and which was sufficiently deep to produce gales in most parts of the Kingdom. The temperature of the week has been almost continuously high, the maximum readings for each day being about 50°. On the night of the 24th, however, a sharp hoar frost occurred, the thermometer on the grass falling to 23°. The barometer was highest (29.92 inches) on Wednesday (26th inst.); lowest (28.95 inches) on Friday (21st inst.); range 0.97 inch. The temperature was highest (52°) on Saturday and Monday (22nd and 24th inst.); lowest (33°) on Tuesday (25th inst.); range 19°. Rain fell on five days. Total amount 0.52 inch. Greatest fall on any one day 0.22 inch on Monday (24th inst.).

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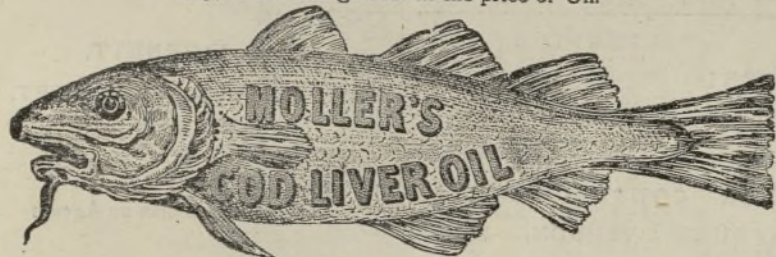


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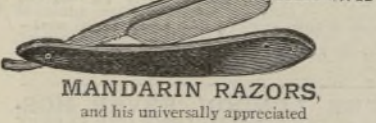


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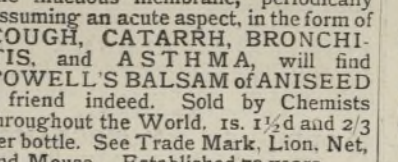
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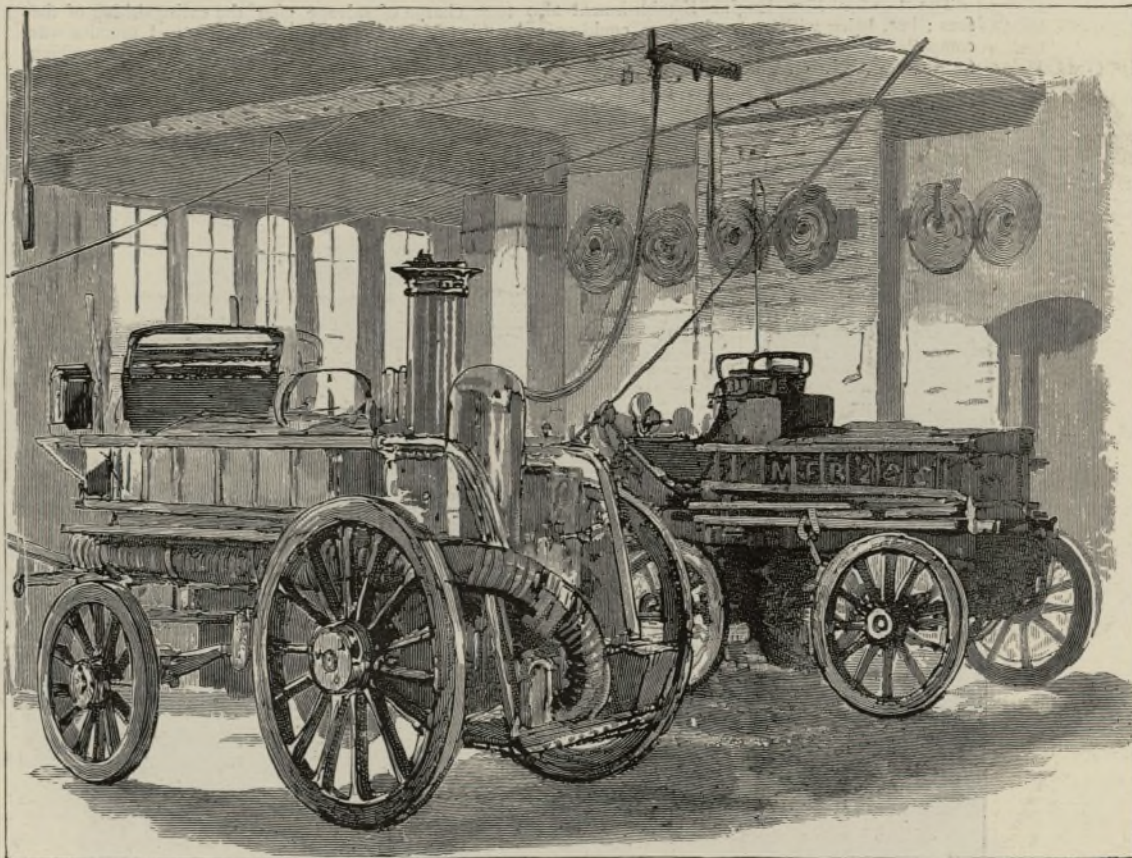
THE CLERGY and THE TIMES. Archdeacon

THE METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADE

ITS HISTORY AND ORGANISATION



CAPTAIN EYRE M. SHAW, C.B.
Chief Officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade



FIRE-ENGINES AT HEAD-QUARTERS STATION BEFORE THE FIRE-BELL RINGS
Ready for Work

THE PASSING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Bill transfers many of our Municipal Institutions to new hands, and it has occurred to us that the present is a suitable time for presenting to our readers a history of one of the best-known and, to many persons, one of the most interesting of all our public forces, which will be seriously affected by the measure—namely, the London Fire Brigade.

In former times, London had no protection from fire beyond that which was afforded by the Parish Fire Engines, in charge of feeble and infirm old men, or, as a popular author has informed us, in some cases, old women. How the work was done, it is hardly necessary to say; but this state of things endured until quite recent times, when several of the Fire Insurance Companies found it necessary to keep fire engines for extinguishing fires occurring on

property insured in their respective offices. This caused a certain amount of confusion, and after a time several of the Fire Offices combined their forces, and in 1833 commenced work under the title of the London Fire Engine Establishment. At that time, only seven offices combined; but, by degrees others, seeing the advantage of amalgamating, followed the lead of the pioneers, until, eventually, all the principal Fire Insurance Companies doing business in the metropolis joined the movement.

The law authorising the parishes to keep fire engines still remained in force, and in fact was the only law affecting the metropolis in the matter; but, notwithstanding this, the new establishment, though without any legal power or authority whatever, began to attract attention, and before long became recognised as the only real force existing in London for the protection of property from fire.

A charitable society undertook the protection of life from fire,



TWENTY-FIVE SECONDS AFTER THE RINGING OF THE FIRE-BELL

and established in a great many parts of the metropolis moveable ladders which, through want of funds and other causes, had only a sufficient number of men for attending by night, as indeed, under the altered arrangements, is unfortunately still the case.

The London Fire Engine Establishment also took charge of salvage after the extinguishing of the fires; but, being without legal power, could only do this to a limited extent, and in actual practice was compelled to restrict its operations to property insured in some one or more of the offices which formed and controlled the Establishment.

London consists of a number of parishes which are combined under the Acts relating to mortality. It is a most irregular geometrical entity, comprising Chiswick in the west and Bow in the east, Hampstead and Highgate in the north, the Crystal Palace and Penge in the south, and the City in the north-east, Putney in the south-west.

Kensington, near Wormwood Scrubs, in the north-west, Plumstead in the south-east, Holloway in the north-east, and Putney in the south-west.

Indeed, it would be almost impossible to imagine any area with a more completely irregular outline, and, to make the matter more extraordinary, there are certain spots geographically within the metropolis, but not belonging to it, as, for instance, portions of Hornsey, which parish refused to allow itself to be included, or, at least, was not included, within the Bills of Mortality.

Then there is the part specially known as the City, which is certainly comprised in the metropolis so far as the labours of the Fire Brigade are concerned; but here we are touching on rather delicate ground; and, indeed, we own frankly that we do not know whether the grand old Municipality, of which we are all so proud, is to be considered as a portion of the metropolis, or as the centre round which the parishes revolve. The City of London covers hardly a square mile; but it contains an amount of actual material wealth greater than can be found in any area of the same magnitude in any other part of the world, in addition to documents, securities, and other "instruments" of untold value.

The distribution and concentration of material wealth must always remain a mystery; but it may be mentioned that, although the property of London is scattered over an area of 121 square miles, a proportion not less than two-thirds of the whole is contained within an area of ten square miles—five from west to east, and two from north to south, with, roughly speaking, the Mansion House as the centre.

And here we must pause for a moment to give a few particulars showing the difficulties which a fire brigade has to encounter in the course of its work, and a few suggestions for the removal, or reduction, of these difficulties. Skill and much forethought are required for the construction of a building. The choice of a position, the site, the foundation, area, configuration, &c., are all of great importance. These subjects being too lengthy to be treated of here, we may go on to the materials of which they are constructed; and on this point there must always be a wide range of opinion. The Code Napoleon is well carried out in France, and imitated in Germany. In America there are excellent building-laws; but they are no better than the above, because that would be almost an impossibility.

In Great Britain the Code Napoleon forms the basis of our building regulations; but, unfortunately, these regulations are not enforced, the independence of individuals being so often pitted against the authority of the law. In the new cities of America good sound buildings are naturally to be expected, but in the Old World this cannot be the case. In Paris the buildings are excellent, as gypsum and other materials for resisting fire actually exist on the spot, and require no more than the expense of lifting them.

The part of Boston which was burnt in 1872 was so perfect in every way that, when it was restored, the new portion was an exact reproduction of the old, no better construction being found possible. In London, where the average of new buildings is necessarily very small, regulations have of late years been revised, and there is a decided improvement in the newer buildings; but the old ones remain. It must be remembered that a building has always two risks—one from a fire breaking out within it, and the other from a fire breaking out in an adjacent house. The old houses remain, and not only form a source of great danger to their new neighbours, but are an ever-present anxiety to every fireman. This is a subject on which every one connected with fires will agree.

It is a common rule to advertise for builders, and this is rather to be commended than otherwise. Designs, material, &c., may be better considered and estimated in this way, and if the work is carried out with every attention to the minutest detail under a skilful and honest clerk of works, no bad consequences ought to follow. This combination, however, so indispensable for a sound construction, is unfortunately seldom found. Unqualified persons compete with other builders as to which can work at the lowest prices. In these cases, the terms offered being insufficient to cover the expenses, or inadequate to satisfy the contractor for his risks in the undertaking, scampering is resorted to. This means employing bad material and unskilled labour, for the sake of a small temporary saving, to the owner of the building. That soundness of construction is the fundamental principle in cases of fire is a most apparent fact; and, where there are both bad material and untrained labourers, there must inevitably remain fear of a complete loss of the building and its contents in case of a fire occurring. Stone is a most dangerous material for stairs. It deceives the eye by a



MR. W. POST
The Officer in Charge at Headquarters

particularly fire-bricks, if properly laid in sound mortar or cement for walls, will resist the effects of heat for a considerable time.

To reconsider the subject of so-called fire-proof buildings is most an essay as this. If some of our readers could in one of these buildings, they would see for themselves the result of iron being subjected to a strong heat. The great safety of such places is supposed to be caused by the fact that they have all their floors supported by iron columns, which the law insists on calling fire-proof. For the sake of all who deposit their valuables in such buildings, under the impression that they can place implicit trust in floors supported by so strong a material as iron, it would be only fair to explain the nature of this metal. Take a straight iron rod, supported only at its ends, and able to carry a heavy weight in the centre at the ordinary temperature of the atmosphere. So far it will answer perfectly. Light a strong fire beneath it, and in a very few moments the rod will bend towards the middle, then drop, next fuse, and finally run away like melted butter. Every fireman knows this well, and to attend a fire-proof building when it is on fire is perhaps one of the most dangerous duties he has to do. Long before a brick wall is actually on the point of falling there are perceptible cracks, and these becoming numerous and marked, the superintendent can place his men at a safe distance until the danger is passed. Where iron is much used, this

semblance of extreme solidity; but the effect of heat on it is very serious. Stonestairs are usually formed by inserting oblong blocks of stone a few inches into the wall, the rest protruding with nothing at all to support it. Even the ordinary temperature would affect one block taken by itself, and were a kettle of boiling water to be poured upon it, it would fall to the ground. The protruding part of the block would expand, the inserted part remaining in no way affected, and a fracture would necessarily take place. When this is so well known it seems almost incredible that the law should name stone as a "fire-proof material." That the expression fire-proof should ever have made its way into the English language is a point which many thousands may regret. Ignorant people place so much trust in a word that they make no effort to find out what it implies. Were they to do so, how few would store their treasure in so-called fire-proof buildings! But we shall return to this point later on. The law goes so far as to compel stone staircases to be built in schools and other public buildings. Openings for windows and doors in a stone wall, in order to be safe, should be mounted on the top with brick arches, which could carry the load, as the stone above would rapidly give way when subjected to heat.

Bricks of any kind, more

becomes impossible, as, the moment it is heated beyond a certain point, it simply becomes of no sort of use, loses its power completely, and the weight above, whatever it may be, comes down with a crash and without a moment's warning. Wherever great weights, such as machinery, are kept on the floors of a building, necessarily be great danger for those to be on or beneath these floors.

As the flames ascend, they burn floor and, sooner or later, to the weight which it supports the floor falls through as already shown. Where iron posts are in use, it takes but a very few minutes for such a catastrophe to take place.

That stone and iron cannot altogether be dispensed with for these purposes is certain, and, we may add, is to be regretted. For appearance and use, these materials have many great advantages. If the owner of a building knows the dangers which he must

expect from making use of them, and if he is ready to provide against those dangers, and to let all who are under him know the condition of his building, he may, with comparative safety, make use of stone and iron; but it should be explained to all concerned that any exposed metal, forming an essential part of a construction, is absolutely unsafe in case of fire. A building of such construction is not even heat-proof, much less fire-proof.

When scampering ceases we may hope to find timber in much greater use. Woodwork, if really sound and solid, resists for almost any amount of time all heat short of actual flame. Even when flame reaches it, it is not destroyed at once, and under certain conditions it has been known to last for hours. Wherever iron is used it should be protected either by sound plastering or good brick work, or, if nothing better can be found, even by solid woodwork round it. Wood, protected beneath by proper plastering, which would not fall down or crack when subjected to heat, seems a powerful resistor of flame. A massive storey post of even the most inflammable wood is absolutely proof against any heat short of actual flame, will not of itself burn at all, requires a continual supply of highly inflammable substances to keep it burning, and when these are withdrawn ceases to burn at all.

It is almost certain that, were timber and many fabrics used in furniture or for wearing apparel to be impregnated with dissolved alum or tungstate of soda, and many articles of furniture with certain paints, they would be rendered unflammable in the strict sense of the word, which means that they would under no circumstances actually burst into flame. Being combustible they would be destroyed by fire in time, but as time gives opportunity for help to arrive, this is an important point. Every minute, every second, is of the greatest importance, and everything which can save even the smallest amount of time should be taken into serious consideration. Some assert that chemicals impregnated into wool and other fabrics produce rot; others assert equally firmly that they prevent it. Experience goes to prove that they neither produce nor prevent decay in any way. No excuse need be offered for going into all this detail, as the construction of buildings exercises a paramount influence on everything connected with protection from fire.

As many of our readers will undoubtedly look for something which will affect them more personally, and as it is only to a small, though important, body of men that the precautions necessary for the safety of a warehouse and the storing of inflammable goods need be addressed, it will be well to turn to the safety of life from fire, which must ever remain the most serious part of a fireman's duty. Although the largest and most important fires occur in warehouses, manufactories, timber-yards, &c., these do not call forth the sympathy of the general public. There may be millions of pounds lost by the burning of silk, oil, documents, or timber, and the loss will not even be understood by the majority. Our interest in such casualties is never large, as in most important cases the loss is not sustained at all by the possessor of the place destroyed, but entirely by the insurance companies. If lives are lost at a fire, at once the interest is great; articles are written in the papers, irregularities in theatres, schools, asylums, and shops are brought to light, every one has some opinion to express, some have improvements to suggest; but this, unfortunately, endures for only a very short time. Few excitements last for more than seven days in this country, and it will only be after a larger number of disasters than have ever yet occurred that the public will turn their curiosity and excitement to any practical end.

How many thousands of men and women go night after night to theatres which they themselves know to be unsafe! They dismiss the fact on the way to their seats, and they deplore it as they depart after the performance. The King Theatre disaster at Vienna is still fresh in the minds of those who take a practical interest in such things, but who else remembers it? The fire in the Exeter Theatre, with its hundreds of lives lost, is a story barely a year old;

VAN WITH A LADDER REACHING TO THE HEIGHT OF EIGHTY FEET

HEAD-QUARTERS, SOUTHWARK BRIDGE ROAD

LAND AND FLOATING STEAM FIRE-ENGINES AT WORK

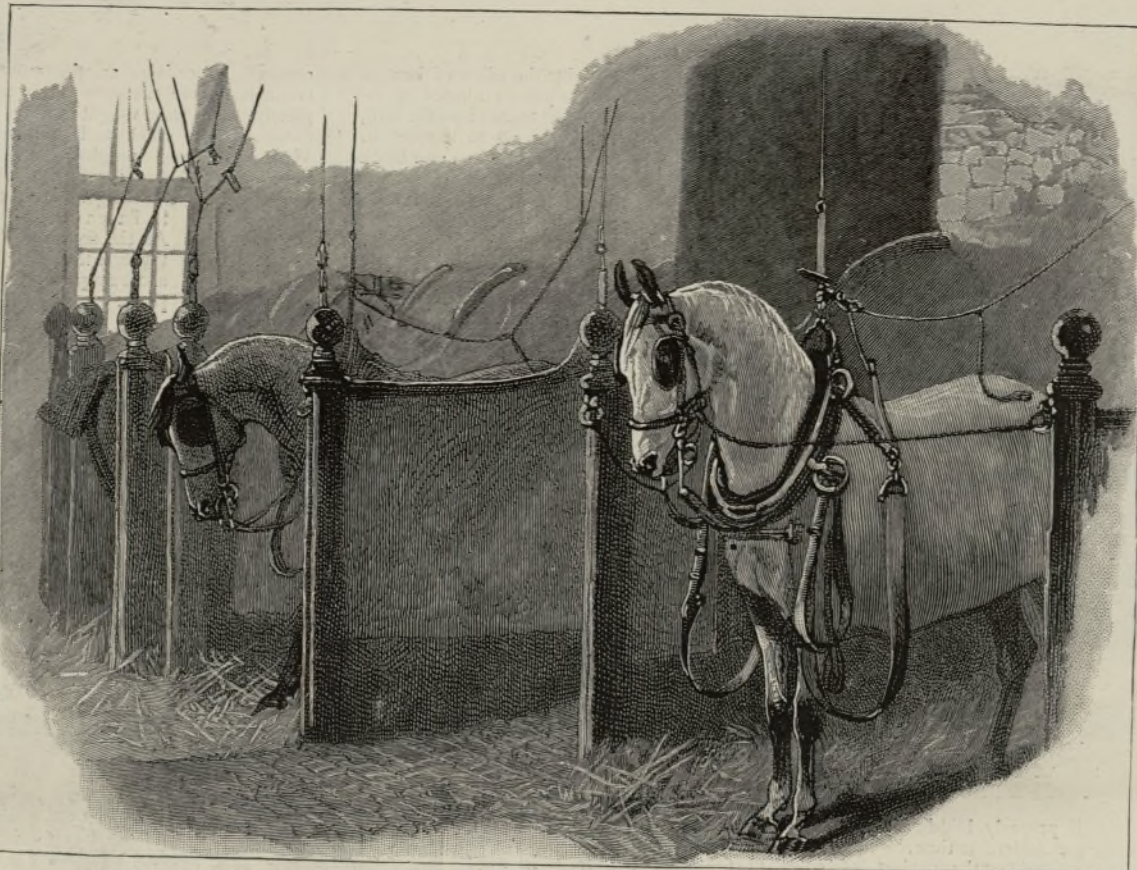
but who remembers the details—who cares that a license was given for that theatre by the magistrates, although the conditions of the license had not been carried out, and the building was not completed? The magistrates defended their conduct on the plea that they took the word of the architect. Will the same be said elsewhere when some terrible disaster takes place, as there is every possibility, and every probability, will be the case, and hundreds of our fellow-creatures have met with the most horrible of all deaths? It is, unfortunately, the fact that, until such things are brought near home, we do not at all realise the dangers to which we submit so quietly, and apparently so contentedly. Many theatres do not take even the most simple precautions, such as providing an iron curtain, or even a piece of baize, which, being wetted in ten seconds, would make a barrier, impassable by any flames, between the stage and the auditorium. Some people—and theatre officials can be no exception to the rule—lose their heads at those moments when their best capacities are most needed, and anything complicated should therefore, as far as possible, be avoided.

To drop an iron curtain needs very little skill, and it seems unpardonable to allow the continuance of a danger which can certainly be prevented by so simple and obvious a precaution. Any sight of a flame might be sufficient to cause a panic in a crowded or an over-crowded house, but this would be much reduced by the immediate lowering of the curtain. To avoid the possibility of a panic it would be advisable either to use the iron curtain nightly so that the idea of danger would no longer attach to it, else to use the simple means of a double baize curtain, which would certainly cause no alarm, and could be filled with water in about ten seconds when necessary. Formerly an idea prevailed that in case of fire all lights should be extinguished, and the gas turned off at the meter; but Captain Shaw has long since pointed out that this is a most dangerous fallacy, and it is hoped and believed that in all well-regulated houses such a proceeding is absolutely prohibited. Practically, in the event of a fire, if the roof could be completely lifted off, and all lights turned full on, not one life would be lost. In small theatres there is accommodation for about five hundred persons, and in the largest for about three thousand. How can any rational being expect such numbers to find their way out in complete darkness, even if they were in the calmest state of mind? Add to this the obstacles in their way, the chairs they have to climb, their families which they must gather together, the stout and the infirm who, unable to proceed quickly themselves, retard the movements of others. To find one's way into a theatre is sufficiently difficult at the present day. The names one would expect were the different parts, which meant to convey some sort of idea, only serve to confuse even the most constant frequenters of playhouses. An inspection of the theatres in many cities would show

that there are nearly three dozen names to the several parts—amphitheatre, amphitheatre stalls, amphitheatre tier, balcony, balcony stalls, side balcony boxes, side boxes, upper boxes, private boxes, circle, lower circle, family circle, dress circle, front circle, upper circle, gallery, lower gallery, upper gallery, gallery slips, gallery stalls, gallery stalls tier, pit, pit stalls, stalls, orchestra stalls, ground tier, upper tier, first tier, grand tier, pit tier, fauteuil, and promenade. At different times of the year these names are again attached to other parts, and one who is well acquainted with such places may even make his way successfully to a well-known exit to find that it has been specially closed for some distinguished visitors. The confusion in entering a theatre with all the officials waiting to tell you twenty times, if necessary, that you are to go here and there, go up and down, and that at the end you may possibly find your seat, can in no way bring before the mind the difficulties of getting out by oneself, perhaps in the dark, without any guide. The knowledge, moreover, that until you reach the outer air you are in danger of being crushed or burned to death, adds to the difficulties. It would seem superfluous in these enlightened days to say that every door should open both ways.

After the fire in the Ring Theatre an iron door was broken open, — and what was found? Piles of dead bodies. These unfortunate people had very naturally made for a means of escape so apparent as this door, and the first who arrived at the spot being unable to

open it, were crushed by the overwhelming rush behind them. In some cases visitors are obliged to go the whole length of a building.



IN THE STABLES

ing which lies between the auditorium and the street, and even this passage is elaborately and carefully impeded by stumbling blocks. The passages, corridors, landings, and stairs, complex as they are, are not left without some additions to obstruct them, such as pay-boxes, cloak-rooms, refreshment counters, single or double steps, and partial walls. Why should the whole instructions necessary to find one's seat to any part require more than half-a-dozen plain words?

There are other parts of a theatre which are not seen, and are, therefore, ignored. No one can deny that the properties and lumber must be kept somewhere or other, and that the scene-painting requires some establishment; but, as a rule, who knows where these dangerous and inflammable things are deposited?

Many theatres do not contain workshops, &c., and, therefore, such appliances should be considered as on the whole unnecessary. As, however, the minor advantages to the officials must not be ignored, and it is certain that these things contribute to their convenience, they ought to be allowed in exceptional cases, but only with a special licence quite apart from the licence for the theatre proper. A licence for a theatre should only cover the stage, auditorium, and outlets. For anything in addition, such as carpenters' shops, refreshment-rooms, smoking-rooms, a special licence should be asked, and this again should on no account be given without an absolute certainty that no danger could arise to the audience from the operations carried on. To mention all these dangers without making some suggestions would be worse than useless. Many people are already very much afraid of entering such buildings, and, therefore, have left off attending theatres altogether. Would it not be manifestly in the interest of the managers to remove not only the obvious dangers, but whatever they know to exist which would, however remotely, endanger life in the case of a fire and panic?

It is an undoubted fact that people who have no apparent means of finding out do know the existing dangers very well. Who tells them? It may be the officials, the actors, or the workmen. No matter. The fact cannot be hidden, and it would surely be to the pecuniary advantage of any manager, even at great expense, to render his theatre perfectly safe, and then to let it be publicly known that it is so.

Before passing on to another subject it would be appropriate to mention a few cases of panic from false alarms in theatres and other places of public gathering, and their sad result.

On the 17th February, 1849, in the Royal Theatre, Glasgow, seventy persons were crushed.

On the 31st July, 1860, at Tong's Music Hall, Manchester, twenty-two people were trodden down under foot, and many injured.

In June, 1870, at the Theatre in Leghorn, sixty persons were crushed and trampled on. In October, 1870, at the Colosseum Theatre in Liverpool, thirty-seven persons were crushed and trampled on, and many dangerously wounded.

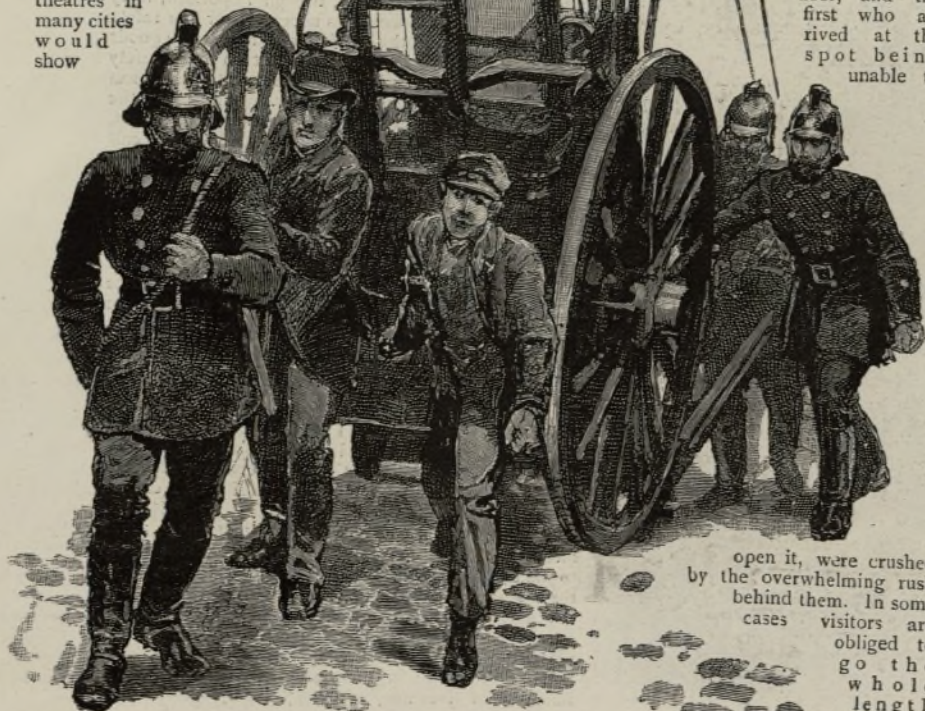
In a church at Warsaw, on the 25th of May, thirty people were killed, twenty-nine dangerously wounded, and about one hundred slightly wounded; and all these terrible calamities occurred from panic alone, without fire. Surely it is time that proper precaution should be taken to prevent panic.

A most trivial cause will often give rise to a false alarm. Apart from the fact of a cry of fire being raised by some mischievous person as a practical joke, or by a thief who expects to have a good share of the plunder which may be had among a panic-stricken mob, the smallest circumstances are often sufficient to give the audience a fright; the blazing of a bright light on the stage at a wrong time, a fire breaking out in the neighbourhood, the smell of smoke from a heating apparatus, or even a stream of water on the stage.

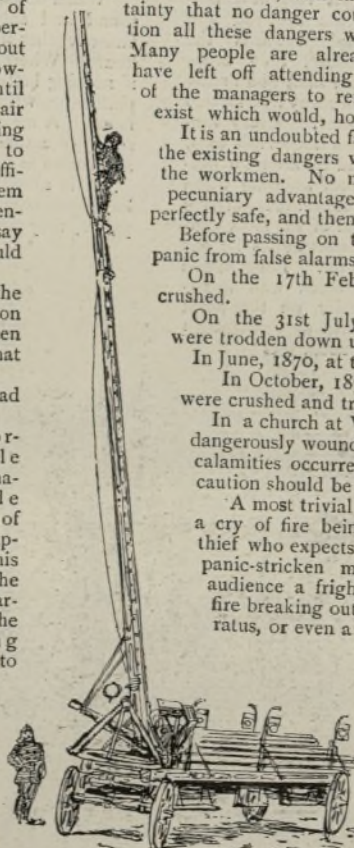
A system of strict inspection should be established, and where the managers are honest and willing to provide for the safety of their visitors, as they generally are, they will have the advantage of valuable advice. These inspections might be entrusted either to the police or to others who have experience among large crowds, and the inspectors should be armed with all the necessary authority for fulfilling their duties, even to the immediate closing of the houses in cases of emergency. In some theatres, the first point of real safety reached by a visitor is the street-door, although by the removal of some few barriers, walls, and other obstructions, it could be made some fifty feet nearer the seats. For the galleries and other high parts two flights of stairs should be made, so that in case of the one becoming unavailable by a rush of smoke, the other would be free. All exits should lead separately to the open air, but what is of most importance, every exit should lead by the shortest route to a point of safety. Theatres are unhappily not alone in providing danger for unsuspecting multitudes. There are shops where some hundreds of women are locked up nightly without any possibility of all escaping in an outbreak of fire. This has been only too sadly proved thing, or almost anything, open by night.

All people in charge of such buildings must, no doubt, be careful that no one should be able to enter the premises from without, or prowl about during the unwatched hours of the night within the house. This, of course, must be provided against. But is not the person in charge also responsible

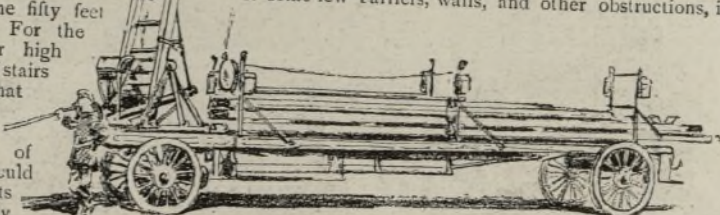
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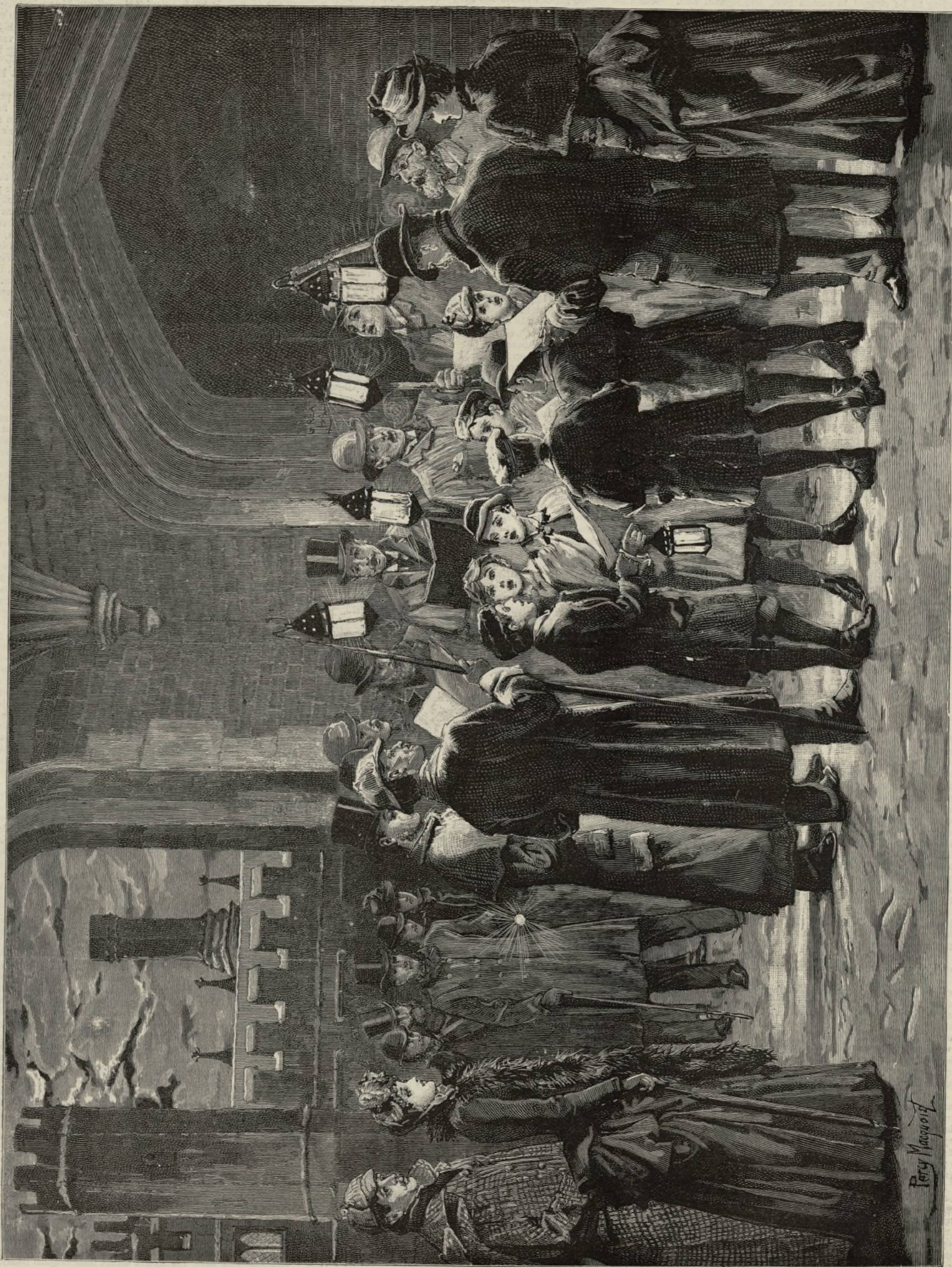
A FIRE ESCAPE ON THE WAY TO A FIRE



AMERICAN TELESCOPIC LADDER IN USE



AMERICAN TELESCOPIC LADDER BEING RAISED



CAROL SINGING ON CHRISTMAS EVE AT HAMPTON COURT PALACE

for the lives of those left to his care in the case of an outbreak of fire? It is much to be wished that this danger were as well-considered and provided against as the other more common but less fatal event. If every care-taker or manager, as the case may be, were included in the arrangements made for his inmates, we should soon see marked improvements. It is not satisfactory to be obliged to confess that, although all such authorities generally place themselves in absolute safety, they provide either very slender advantages or none at all for those committed to their care. In all such buildings, two staircases should be provided, for the very obvious reason that if the fire were to break out near one of them, the other might be available.

In private dwellings, few, if any, precautions are taken, and any advantages existing in such buildings are often utterly unknown to many of the occupants. All means of egress—such as balconies, skylights, windows, doors, hatch-traps on the roof, &c.—should be well studied, as they might prove of great avail in an emergency.

A fire-escape immediately on its arrival reaches to a height of thirty feet, after about half-a-minute to forty feet, and after about one minute to fifty feet. It is seldom possible to reach to a greater height quickly, and at present these are the only means that can be used from without for saving life. All who live in higher buildings should be provided, at a moderate cost, with external fixed ladders of wrought iron, reaching to about forty feet from the ground. Another way would be to provide continuous balconies of wrought iron. With such arrangements, loss of life would be reduced to a minimum. There is a certain very important period during which no fireman can help—the period which must necessarily elapse before the fire-escape or engine arrives. This may be but a few moments, perhaps not more than ten minutes, but during that short period everything depends on the steadiness and judgment of those in the building, and on the means they have provided for themselves in the case of such an event. The firemen on their arrival will at once make every effort, at the risk of their lives, to save what they can of life and property, but their success or failure virtually depends, to a great extent, both on the work done by the occupiers in the intervening time and the construction of the building which has to be saved.

Warehouses and such buildings have already been considered, but dwelling-houses must still undergo a severe criticism. If in warehouses scamping is in practice, how much more is this the case in dwellings? A warehouse must have a certain amount of solidity, otherwise the weights could not be held up at all. In such a building as we are considering, not only is strength not so necessary for ordinary purposes, but also the occupier is far less likely to look over the house from that point of view. The house may have the appearance of soundness and cleanliness, but if only some of the more fastidious were to go closer in their inspection, what would their feelings be? Floors, with the appearance of great solidity, are often hollow, with a space filled by dust and foul gases; ceilings of the upper rooms have above them a space containing every sort of foul air; the partitions, seemingly of the most solid masonry, are in reality hollow, being simply constructed by means of a thin washing of plaster over a few laths, tacked on to some concealed wooden supports.

Three things are needed to make a fire, namely, a combustible substance, heat, and a small amount of air, which is called the supporter of combustion. It is that part of air known as oxygen which is necessary in order to cause a fire.

We will next consider the subject of what is commonly called spontaneous combustion. Experiments have been made in order to give greater precision to the existing knowledge of this matter, and it has been found that fires arise from the heating of cotton and other similar materials which have imbibed animal or vegetable oils, and even in some cases water. Instances are proved of olive oil igniting upon sawdust, and rags greasy from butter, heaped together, taking fire within a period of twenty-four hours. A careful study of such, and many other, scientific experiments would be of the greatest importance to all persons who use large quantities of grease, tallow, oil, lard, and other fatty substances for manufacturing, &c., and even for domestic purposes.

Chemical apparatus have been tried with good success for extinguishing fire; but, however they may answer in some cases, it is very evident that at present we have to rely almost entirely on water in its natural state. The abundance of water which can be had at any moment, and at almost every street corner, in our large towns, the ease with which it can be made use of, either by the pressure of its own gravitation, by fixed pumping machinery, or any moveable pumping appliances, such as steam fire-engines, constitutes it the best fire extinguisher of our times. Water for supplying cities is collected in large reservoirs situated in suitable parts of the high levels of the place. The water is forced, either by gravitation or by pumping power, from the lakes or rivers into these receptacles, and then is distributed by means of mains, service pipes, and supply pipes to the places where it is required. In London the distribution of water to the houses is effected by means of supply pipes from service pipes. The water is sold by eight different companies to those in their several districts who wish to buy. In some parts the mains of two companies run conjointly. In all the large streets and roads the principal mains have usually a constant head of water, the amount varying according to the different companies to which they belong.

The service pipes are in connection with the mains, and the supply pipes lead from the service pipes into the house. At many points the mains are fitted with sluice valves, and in closing some and opening others a greater quantity can sometimes be directed to the quarter where it is required. In old cities, such as London, a constant water supply is very difficult to establish and maintain, but it is not impossible, and no doubt it will one day be accomplished; but it is equally beyond doubt that the ultimate advantages will have to be purchased by an immediate expenditure so vast that the most vigorous and progressive of municipal members shrink from even the contemplation of the subject. The leaden pipes, together with the internal fittings of the old houses, would in many cases be unable to bear the pressure, and this adds another difficulty.

In many parts of London, but more especially in the City, there is a constant head of water. For small, and occasionally for large fires, the pressure is sufficiently strong to dispense with fire-engines altogether. Firemen, at once on their arrival, attach the hose to the hydrant, and the heavy pressure sends the water to the height or distance required. At all very large fires engines are absolutely indispensable, and will remain so, no matter to what perfection the water arrangements may arrive. There are so many accidents by which a main might be rendered useless, such as the bursting of a service pipe, or any great frost. Within certain areas covered with warehouses the amount of water consumed is extremely small—probably in most cases being limited to the quantity required for washing and drinking. In these districts there must always be a fear that when a fire breaks out the supply of water will not be sufficient for the occasion. As a rule, there is no great lack of water, but in some few cases every year there has been delay in getting it, or an insufficient supply.

It is sorrowful to contemplate that, in a country like England, where we profess to give a fair trial to every scheme which honourable or dishonourable inventors may bring forward, we have tried and let drop one of the greatest inventions and benefits of this present century. Every fireman in England must regret the fate of the electric light. It has flourished in America, where it answers its purpose to perfection, lighting up factories, offices, and private dwellings to this very day. Surely no private interests should be

allowed to interfere with such a step in civilisation and safety. Purveyors of other modes of lighting must in the end give way, and it might be wise for them to consider whether their simplest and safest course would not be to join the movement, and themselves become the purveyors of the improved light, bringing their staff and all their resources into requisition for the purpose. The knowledge which the leading gas companies now have of existing requirements in the way of light would give them great advantages over any new companies commencing work, and the simplest solution of the whole question would seem to be that they should change their name, and call themselves "lighting companies," in which case they would use every kind of light to the great advantage of their customers, and the increased safety of life and property.

One of the occurrences to be expected in every large town is the disaster of a gas explosion. The word alone suggests wild reports, it strikes the imagination, and terror reigns in all the neighbourhood. The consequences are formidable indeed, but they are wonderfully exaggerated in the public mind. So great is the fear that for a short time there springs up the thought that gas should be totally abolished, an idea so absurd in itself, and happily impossible to carry out in practice, that nothing is ever done, whereas a careful consideration of the subject might lead to most beneficial results. The literal meaning of the word explosion is quick expansion, or the act of driving out accompanied by noise. The disasters occasioned by an explosion are in proportion to its suddenness and violence apart from the material affected, whether it be gunpowder, dynamite, gas, or any other explosive substance. For a so-called gas explosion there must of necessity be a quantity of atmospheric air added. In this case what explodes is not gas, but a mixture of oxygen, nitrogen, and carburetted hydrogen, and the seriousness of the explosion depends mainly on the relative quantities of these substances. Where there is perfectly free ventilation into the open-air an explosion of gas is impossible. It is marvellous, considering the many years during which this mode of lighting has been in use, what profound ignorance prevails on this point. The danger of having anything to do with gas is one of the earliest lessons of our childhood. What head of a house does not warn all the members and tell them of a thousand horrors should they dare to touch it, and yet he himself lives on in total ignorance of the few necessary precautions to be taken. Gas meters should, wherever this is possible, be placed outside the house; where this cannot be done, they should be put in such a position that the flue directly above communicates with the open air. In this way any gas that might escape would be immediately carried away, and could not accumulate so as to cause danger. It is far better not to shut off at the meter. In large buildings one burner out of a hundred may be forgotten, and enough gas would escape to mix with the air and so cause an explosion. When a gas-pipe has once been filled with gas, it should be kept full.

With all these horrors and dangers in the midst of us, we instinctively look around for some protection against this formidable foe of every town—a fire. Most of the important professions are carried on before the world at large, but perhaps not one is brought so near to each of us as the Fire Brigade, not alone in large cities, which generally have good appliances worked by experienced firemen, but even in the smallest and remotest villages, where the ultimate safety of the population depends mainly on the working of old and dilapidated pumps by wholly unskilled hands. There is no other profession in which the members have a daily and hourly duty to perform at the risk of their lives. The Army and the Navy have such work at the most five or six times in a century. We read of every action that takes place; we were not there to see the gallant deeds, and we place implicit faith in the accounts sent home. In the Fire Brigade we see the work, and we see and hear the engines dashing through the streets, and we know that the men are going to their duty with nothing in their minds but the fulfilment of that duty to win the approval of their employers. They look for no glory, for no account the next morning in the papers; they work as well in the dead of night as in the midst of an admiring crowd—more than this, they work better. Modesty may be a mistake when carried too far, but there is many a man in this force who would rather leave a gallant deed undone than do it before an enthusiastic public. Yet the work is before him, and he must force himself to forget his surroundings, and to remember only the performance of his duty.

One instance of bravery we may well mention before going on to describe the actual mode of extinguishing a burning building, and saving the inhabitants. At a fire which took place in August, 1887, a fireman performed a most meritorious act, by which he saved the life of a comrade at the imminent risk of his own. He and another fireman had been working with a branch inside a building when a heavy fall occurred, and they had to make a precipitate retreat. The first-mentioned got out, but found that the other was not with him, and, although severely burned and otherwise injured, he at once returned, and was just in time to rescue his comrade from immediate and certain death.

Firemen do not receive rewards for standing by each other in emergencies. If they did, almost every man of every rank would have many such distinctions; but an act of the kind here mentioned is one which does honour to the whole brigade, and, although names are not given, it is one which is always remembered with pride in favour of the man who has performed it.

In the details here given of the working of a Fire Brigade it must be borne in mind that we are describing the Metropolitan Fire Brigade of London. In America the work is altogether different. In Paris, in Vienna, in Berlin, and other cities, the arrangements are quite dissimilar, and those interested may study and compare them with advantage. We will limit ourselves to our own concerns.

When a policeman or other person rings the fire bell at any station, the officer in charge finds out from him, first of all, whether it is a real call for a fire. This is done in about a second of time. He at once orders the horses to be harnessed and the engines to be turned out. This takes from one to four minutes, according to the arrangements of the station at which the call is received. The engine travels at about the rate of a mile in four minutes. The superintendent of the district, with whom the officer has already communicated by means of a telephone, sends on such help as he thinks fit, and the chief of the Brigade, who is immediately apprised, adds still more help if he finds it necessary.

The officer in charge of the first engine, immediately on his arrival at the fire, sends back a message to report the nature of the fire, and all particulars. As every officer is thoroughly trained in every branch of the service, and, before being promoted to this rank, has instructed others in every capacity, and has been judged competent to command his men, his judgment of what help is required at a fire is absolutely correct. This is a great advantage. In America, where the men are not trained, there is no one to know what help is really needed, and therefore, to avoid a mistake, they always send out a strong force whether their services are required or not.

Should a fire take place later than nine o'clock at night the call would be sent on to the fire-escape station. The fireman would have his machine in motion in less than one minute, and would travel at the rate of six miles an hour. The fire-escape stations are far more numerous than the fire-engine stations, and, in this way, the fire-escape is often the first to arrive. The fireman in charge searches the building, and if there are any persons within, he at once sets to work to save them, and never hesitates for a moment in this heavy duty until it is certain that no living being remains within. Frequently the information he receives from some member

of the household is so incomplete that, although every one may be in safety outside, he cannot put any faith in their statements, and then he returns to make sure of it, and it sometimes happens that his efforts are rewarded, and that, after patiently looking through every part, he finds some forgotten member of the family or some humble retainer who has not been missed.

The duty of saving life is by far the most dangerous work a fireman has to do. If he is occupied in extinguishing a building, and there is immediate danger of losing his life, it is his duty to change his position, and in many cases he is directly ordered by his commanding officer to do so. He is loth to leave his point of vantage, but discipline must be maintained, and he obeys. In saving life no order is given to leave off. He must go on, whatever may be his risk, and not until every one is safe does he for one moment look to his own welfare.

A fireman in 1871 was burnt to death. He had saved five persons, and was in the act of saving a woman, when somehow he was entangled in the fire-escape. He passed this woman down in safety, but could not extricate himself, and was burnt alive. Fire-escapes are fitted at the back of the lowest ladder with a wire-netting or shoot, which reaches to about thirty feet. Into this ladder, if the height require it, another ladder is fixed reaching forty feet, and again another, if necessary, reaching fifty feet high. Till the fireman arrives at the lowest or main ladder, he must carry the person on his back. If the person is insensible there is little difficulty, and the fireman lifts him over his shoulders, leaving both his own hands free to hold the ladder. He then carries him on his back down the ladder, and when he arrives at the shoot he places him in, and at once runs up again to save others. A woman is best placed in head foremost, but a man is usually sent down feet foremost. When the fireman was burnt to death, the shoot was made of canvas, instead of wire, as it is now, and it was the canvas which caught fire. The saving of one or two lives is so common that scarcely any attention is paid to it.

A few years ago one fireman saved eight lives, but died soon afterwards in hospital, from the effects of the heat. The fireman in charge of an escape, if he arrives before the engine, is often able at once to tell the officer the nature and extent of the fire, and thus not one second is lost. The officer gets his men to stand as near to the burning materials as they possibly can with the hose in their hands. Sometimes they go forward, sometimes they are driven back, but their aim is to get as near as possible, and to remain there. As the other engines arrive each officer sets about his work in the same way, until in a very short time the fire is surrounded at every available point, each man forcing his way slowly but surely towards the centre of the flame. They may have to work from other houses, from buildings on the opposite side of the street, but they always keep the one object in view, and they generally achieve it. The smoke may be, and often is, so great, that for a whole quarter of an hour no one has been able to find out on which side of a street the fire has broken out, and yet they work on with steady persistence until they have reached it.

In a fog the men have great difficulties to contend with. Not only are they delayed en route, but even after arrival they can scarcely find their own engines again if they leave them for a moment. When the firemen are successful there is the well-known call to each other of "Drop your water short." Each one then knows at once that he is approaching the centre, that in a moment he will see the face, or at least the outline, of his comrade, and that, practically, his work is done. There may be much to see to after this, in the way of turning over the stock and cooling it, &c., but the fire itself is extinguished.

As has been already explained, firemen have not only to contend with the materials on fire in a burning building, but their success or failure depends, to a very serious extent, on the soundness or weakness of that building, on the nature of the goods stored in it, the work done or omitted before their arrival, and the amount of time that has elapsed before the call was given. The efficiency of a fireman depends on his capacity of getting as close as possible to his work, and he may be judged accordingly to his success or failure by this test. For this end it is most necessary to have the appliances which he carries with him as light as possible consistently with the necessary strength. This is a difficulty, which can only be overcome by practical knowledge and experience. In America there is a decided tendency to have all the fire-extinguishing implements of massive proportions, and where quick movement is required they are useless. On the Continent of Europe the other extreme prevails, and the appliances are so diminutive as to render the fireman quite unable to cope with heavy fires. Every fireman should be thoroughly trained to work in co-operation, as well as absolutely alone, with no one near to advise, his own brain and his own hands being methodically utilised without excitement, and with steady and unflinching devotion to duty. No one sees, no one applauds, none can criticise his doings; but he works on all the same, and it would not be too much to say that in no single instance has a fireman in London been known to neglect his duty in this way. He gets in somehow—above, below, from any side; it matters little to a sailor how much he climbs, or what efforts are required; he presses on, and almost invariably succeeds. His hands do the work, and he generally feels his footing to be sure, however he may be placed, although in many cases he is in positions from which a landsman would shrink with terror. Ship-training has steadied his head; he passes through back walls, skylights, panels of doors, loop-holes—nothing must stand in his way. He must force his path with his axe, where it is closed before him. He must know how to get from the attic to the basement, from the basement to the attic. He depends, first and foremost, on himself, and his own capacities, and, secondly, on the apparatus provided for his use.

A fireman must have knowledge to cope with other difficulties besides. Where oil and other highly inflammable liquids are kept, the ordinary course of continually pouring water on the fire may not answer the purpose. Where the liquids, under the influence of heat, give off gas, with a certain mixture of atmospheric air added, they become explosive. One danger of pouring a great quantity of water is that, should the oil float above the water, as is usually the case, the whole might overflow, and set all the surrounding neighbourhood in flames. There are many ways in which these dangers may be, in part at least, averted, and they are familiar to all firemen.

A building may have been altered or undermined, or, in other ways, be so unsound that a great fire within soon causes the walls to buckle out. If there has been any delay in calling aid, as is so often the case during the night hours and the early hours of the day, the firemen may arrive and find before them a mass of flames in complete possession of a falling building. At such times they must work from without, from adjoining buildings, and from the street, and in all probability all that they can do is to save the neighbouring premises and keep the flames within their original limits. Sometimes the house in appearance may be sound enough, the firemen enter; they congregate on every floor; there is a mass of them within. The officers outside see cracks in the walls, the cracks increase each moment, and a general order is given that every fireman must escape. Each man tries to get out as quickly as he can, carrying all his gear with him whenever this is possible. He may be too late. He may be almost in time when the crash comes, and he disappears beneath the burning timber and falling bricks. A detachment is immediately sent to dig for him, and often with success.

Each engine has difficulties before it. The hose must be laid out, water obtained, ladders pitched, the building itself, and perhaps

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the adjoining premises, must be broken through, doors must be opened, and stairs mounted. The roof, the stairs, every available spot which offers a good position—all must be made the most of, as every advantage taken may not in the end suffice. Lead may be pouring down like water, the stones may be cracking from the heat, but nothing must stop the firemen. The building is standing, their place is in the centre, and, until they reach that spot, their duty is not over. Some buildings can only be reached from one side, some lend no aid to retard the flames, and, moreover, are stocked with highly inflammable goods. In many parts of the City the houses are built in very close proximity; they are buildings of great area and height, and are so crowded together that a flame from one side of the street at once attacks the opposite house. The fire sometimes commences far away from the front of any of these buildings; it burns on several floors at the same time before being discovered. The firemen may occupy one or two of these levels, but the flames are above, below, and around them. When it is possible a strong force is kept at work on each level. There are many forms of building which suggest the idea that the designer and constructor have done their best to baffle the skill of even the most experienced firemen, and London unfortunately contains many examples of this kind.

In the river there are ships with perhaps 2,000 or 3,000 tons of cargo under the charge of a single ship-keeper. A fire breaks out on board, an alarm is given, and, instead of the usual fire-engines, floating fire-engines arrive. The ship is in a tier with other vessels, the chains are at once unshackled and the vessel towed away. The fire-engine works during the whole of this process, and water is poured on every available spot. The firemen, as usual, crowd on board; the fire may be in the bunkers; inside and outside they are red hot, but the firemen seldom turn back. They must flood the deck, drench the rigging and sails, burst open the nearest hatch and direct the water into the interior of the vessel. At last, after much water has been brought to bear, the heat subsides, and the firemen swarm down. Wherever the water touches the sides it is converted into scalding steam, threatening to destroy every man below. The heat is so great that about three minutes is the longest time for each detachment of men, after which others are sent down to relieve them, and so on by turns until the whole is cool.

To scuttle a ship is no easy matter. In the case of a wooden vessel on fire it might be possible; in the case of an iron vessel it would be quite out of the question. It would take fully six hours to bore a hole through the iron, while the whole cargo might burn in one hour. The heel of a mast below the deck often burns away and the mast consequently gives way. In such a case, great quickness on the part of the officers is necessary to move the firemen out of the way in time, as a falling mast crashes everything within its reach.

Having thus given a general idea of the extent and nature of the work, we next proceed to describe the constitution, organisation, and management of the force, which carries on the heavy duty of protecting the largest city of the world from the ravages of fire.

The Brigade is constructed under an Act of Parliament, 28 and 29 Vict., cap. 90, which entrusts the duty of extinguishing fires, and protecting life and property in case of fire, to the Metropolitan Board of Works, and authorises the Board "to provide and maintain an efficient force of firemen, fire-engines, horses, accoutrements, tools, and implements, as may be necessary for the complete equipment of the force, or conducive to the efficient performance of their duties."

The Act also authorises the Board "to provide fire-engine stations, to establish telegraphic communication, to appoint and remove at their pleasure the members of the Brigade, to pay such salaries as they think expedient, and to make such regulations as they think fit with respect to the compensation to be made to them in case of accident, or to their wives and families in case of their death; also with respect to the pensions or allowances to be paid to them in case of retirement; also with respect to the gratuities to be paid to persons giving notice of fire; also with respect to gratuities by way of a gross sum or annual payment to be from time to time awarded to any member of the said force, or to any other person, for extraordinary services performed in cases of fire; also with respect to gratuities to turncocks belonging to waterworks, from which a supply of water is quickly derived."

These are large powers, and would at first sight appear to place on the controlling body an unlimited responsibility, which could in no way be evaded; but a British Act of Parliament is sometimes a very wonderful document, and it will be seen a little further on, that there is a distinct and insuperable limit to the power of providing and maintaining the "efficient force."

The Act lays down that "the Brigade shall be under the command of an officer, to be called the Chief Officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade," and it gives the following very large powers to him or his representative:—

"On the occasion of a fire the chief or other officer in charge of the Fire Brigade may in his discretion take the command of any Volunteer Fire Brigade or other persons who voluntarily place their services at his disposal, and may remove, or order any fireman to remove, any persons who interfere by their presence with the operations of the Fire Brigade, and generally he may take any measures that appear expedient for the protection of life and property, with power by himself or his men to break into or through, or take possession of, or pull down any premises, for the purpose of putting an end to a fire, doing as little damage as possible; he may also on any such occasion cause the water to be shut off from the mains and pipes of any district, in order to give a greater supply and pressure of water in the district in which the fire has occurred; and no water company shall be liable to any penalty or claim by reason of any interruption of the supply of water occasioned only by compliance with the provisions of this section. All police-constables shall be authorised to aid the Fire Brigade in the execution of their duties. They may close any street in or near which a fire is burning, and they may of their own motion, or on the request of the chief or other officer of the Fire Brigade, remove any persons who interfere by their presence with the operations of the Fire Brigade. Any damage occasioned by the Fire Brigade in the due execution of their duties shall be deemed to be damage by fire within the meaning of any policy of insurance against fire."

The power here described is probably the largest ever granted to any individual in this country, and it has, of course, to be used with great discretion; but it is Captain Shaw's proud boast that, although it has been in force just twenty-three years, and has been brought into active operation upwards of forty thousand times, no serious question has yet arisen as to the mode in which it has been exercised.

We now come to the strange and rather amusing anomaly of the financial limit which the Act assigns to the execution of the unlimited authorisation already mentioned.

The funds for the maintenance of the Brigade are provided from three distinct sources, namely, the insurance companies doing business in the Metropolitan, the Treasury, and the ratepayers.

The insurance companies pay at the rate of thirty-five pounds per million pounds of gross annual insurances, and as they insure at present over seven hundred and forty-one millions' worth of property, this contribution now amounts to just twenty-six thousand pounds a year; the Treasury, in order to avoid periodical changes of assessment, compounds for a fixed sum of ten thousand pounds a year for the general protection of the national buildings; and the inhabitants pay a rate "not exceeding one halfpenny in the

pound" on an estimated gross value of more than thirty-seven millions, which brings in about seventy-eight thousand pounds, thus making at present a total of about one hundred and fourteen thousand pounds a year.

Several attempts have been made to remove the limit of one halfpenny in the pound, and both parties in Parliament have cordially supported the proposal; but there has been attached to it a stipulation that the insurance companies should make a proportionate increase in their contribution, and to this the companies demur in the strongest way, and in fact assert that, if the Bill ever comes before Parliament, they will make every effort to get their present contribution altogether abolished, on the ground that every one who insures property in the metropolis also pays taxes, and consequently under the present arrangement pays twice over, first the ordinary rate levied on every householder, and secondly in the amount added to the premium for insurance, as it is not to be supposed that the payment comes in any way from the insurance companies, which transact their business on commercial principles, and of course increase the premiums, in order that they may be enabled to pay the tax.

The whole question lies in a nutshell, and will probably be one of the first disposed of by the new County Council; but in the meanwhile the Bill is "an opposed Bill," and cannot pass, or even come up for discussion, without the support of the Government of the day, which support has already been refused by Governments of both parties in Parliament.

The organisation, like everything else in the Brigade, is of the simplest possible kind, and is worked out on practical lines for the one sole purpose of accomplishing the end in view, which is the reduction of loss by fire.

The Brigade consists of a number of fire-engine stations distributed about, each station containing a certain number of fire-engines, fire-escapes, and firemen, at least one coachman and one pair of horses, and an officer in charge.

These stations are grouped into districts, each district with an officer in charge; and the districts are grouped together into a common centre under the charge of the chief officer.

All ranks live in the stations, or close by, the married men and their families in separate rooms, and the single men in messes, or parties, ranging in numbers from two in the outlying places to about ten in the business parts of the town.

The whole metropolis is divided into four districts, called respectively A, B, C, and D, each district being provided with a staff complete in itself for all ordinary duties, but so arranged and distributed that it can lend or borrow on an emergency. Each district has a superintendent in charge who lives in the principal station of his command, and is in direct telephonic communication with all the others, and also with the Head Quarters, in which the chief officer resides.

The number of ordinary fire-engine stations is at present on land fifty-five, on the river four—total fifty-nine, in addition to which there are twenty-seven hose-cart stations, and 127 fire-escape stations. The numbering of the stations in each district is quite methodical, the superintendent's being the first, the nearest to a line running north from the superintendent's being the next, and so on radially to the end, when the next district commences with the next number.

The fire-escape stations and hose-cart stations are both numbered and lettered, the number being that of the fire-engine station to which they are attached, and the letter the distinguishing mark for the escape.

An intelligible principle of designating by numbers and letters is the proper basis of an effective and business-like organisation, and all who have seen the arrangements of the London Fire-Brigade bear testimony to the extreme simplicity and completeness with which this principle has been carried out, so as to combine the two paramount objects to be attained; which are, first, the greatest possible distribution of the men and engines; and secondly, the power of concentrating and consolidating the largest number in the shortest possible time, whenever necessity arises.

Wherever the true principles of organisation are not properly understood, or effectually carried into practice, it is found either that concentration has been effected to the exclusion of distribution, in which case the stations are too far apart, and the inhabitants have to run long distances for help, or that distribution has been carried to such an extent as to render impossible within a reasonable time the concentration and consolidation which are absolutely essential for dealing with heavy fires.

To recapitulate. The first and most important point is, that a fire brigade should be so widely spread that the first engine with a skilled fireman should reach the scene of a fire in the shortest possible time. This is provided for by the distribution of the force into a number of stations. The second point is that, as destructive fires take place even in the neighbourhood of fire-engine stations, it is necessary to have the means of massing a powerful force wherever required; this is provided for by having a larger number of men for duty in the central depôts, and not scattering them through the small outlying stations.

But in organising there is another point which has to be kept in view—namely, the varying requirements of a city, or the varying and occasionally somewhat capricious views of those who govern it, and it must be owned that the organisation of the London Fire Brigade has always proved itself capable of immediate adaptation in this way. As an instance of this, it may be mentioned that on the 28th of June, 1867, the Metropolitan Board of Works passed a resolution to take over the whole of the fire-escapes, stations, and plant of the Royal Society for the Protection of Life from Fire, and that on the 1st of July they were taken over, and worked without a hitch, as indeed they have been ever since. This was a feat of which any body of men might well be proud, and it is probably without parallel in the history of municipal institutions; but we are assured by Captain Shaw that the Fire Brigade under his charge has always been, and now is, ready to undergo a similar change in the same time if necessary, though we know that in an imperfect organisation such a proceeding would shake the unity and discipline of the force to its foundation.

The system of telephonic communication adopted in the Brigade is of the simplest possible kind, and is so arranged that it can be thoroughly understood and worked by all hands, without the aid of skilled electricians, as in America and elsewhere.

Each line of wire is independent of every other line, and has on it two instruments—one at each end—so that the breaking down of any one line—as, of course, must frequently happen in any large city—does not interfere with the working of any of the others.

Within the Brigade there are the following lines of communication, all worked by telephones, which have recently been substituted for telegraphs throughout the whole system:—

Main lines	4
Distributing lines	59
Auxiliary, or link lines	5
Total	68

The main lines are from the Head Quarters of the Brigade to the stations of the four Superintendents; the distributing lines are from each Superintendent's station to every other in his own district, including the street stations; and the link lines are for the purpose of communicating from Head Quarters to the several districts in the event of a main line being interrupted or broken down.

Thus, if the line from No. 1 Station, Head Quarters, to No. 2 Station in the "A" district is disabled, a message can be passed

to No. 2 by any of the four following routes, namely—through the "B" district, through the "C" district, through the "D" district, or by a secondary link through the "B" district, and the same can be done in the event of any other main line becoming disabled.

By this system every message from a superior must, of necessity, pass through the hands not only of those who have to carry out what is ordered, but also of those who ought to be acquainted with what is done. Thus, for instance, the chief officer may wish an engine of a distant outlying station to be sent somewhere, and his message to that effect must necessarily pass through the Superintendent of the district, who accordingly knows that one of his stations is temporarily weakened, and whose duty it is, therefore, either to strengthen it himself at once, if necessary, or to ask for help to do so. In short, the system of communication has been specially designed to act in conjunction with, and become to a great extent a portion of, the general discipline of the Brigade.

The link lines can also be used in the event of a fire happening anywhere along their line of route between the two stations which they actually connect; but it is enjoined that, when they are brought into requisition, it must always be for a special reason, either, as stated, a fire happening along the line of route, or a request from some one in authority.

An injudicious use of the link lines might cause serious trouble; for instance, if a fire was going on in the C district and a stop sent to the B district were inadvertently passed through to the C district, the necessary attendance of firemen and engines might be prevented. To obviate such mistakes, strict rules are laid down, and are thoroughly understood by all concerned, with the result that no accident of the kind suggested has occurred for many years, and all ranks are so thoroughly instructed that, as a matter of fact, such a mistake would hardly be possible now.

Besides these, there are round the several stations fifty-four fire-alarm circuits with three hundred and fifty-one call-points, to any of which an engine can be called by ringing a bell, thus saving the person giving notice of a fire the trouble and loss of time which would result from having to go to the fire-engine station.

In addition to the telephones and fire-alarm within the Brigade, twenty-one fire-engine stations are connected by telephones with a corresponding number of Police-stations, thus virtually bringing the whole of the vast telegraphic system of the police into the service of the Brigade.

There are also fifty-five lines with telegraphs, telephones, or fire-alarm, to public and other buildings of various kinds throughout the metropolis; but these, not being paid for by the Brigade, are considered private, and in practice are only used for the benefit of the buildings connected.

No instructions are necessary for the receiving and transmitting of messages by telephone, and consequently the youngest hands can use these instruments as well as the oldest. The ringing of a bell at one end calls attention, and the ringing of a bell at the other end shows that the man is attending. Then the message passes by means of ordinary conversation, as through a speaking-tube.

The fireman on duty is responsible for the correct receipt and transmission of messages, and he is under no circumstances allowed to depute this responsibility to any one else, except to some one actually belonging to the Brigade. He takes care at all times to make persons present stand back from the instruments, and keep silence during the transmission of messages; and he sees, before leaving the instruments, that the receivers are hung in their proper place, so that the bells shall instantly ring, when the button is pressed at the other end of the line.

In addition to the stations of the Fire Brigade, there are within the metropolitan area eighty-nine stations of the Metropolitan Police and seven stations of the City Police all connected by telegraph; and, in the event of fire, both these "systems" are made available for the use of the Brigade.

At present, calls for fires can be received at the following numbers of public places:—

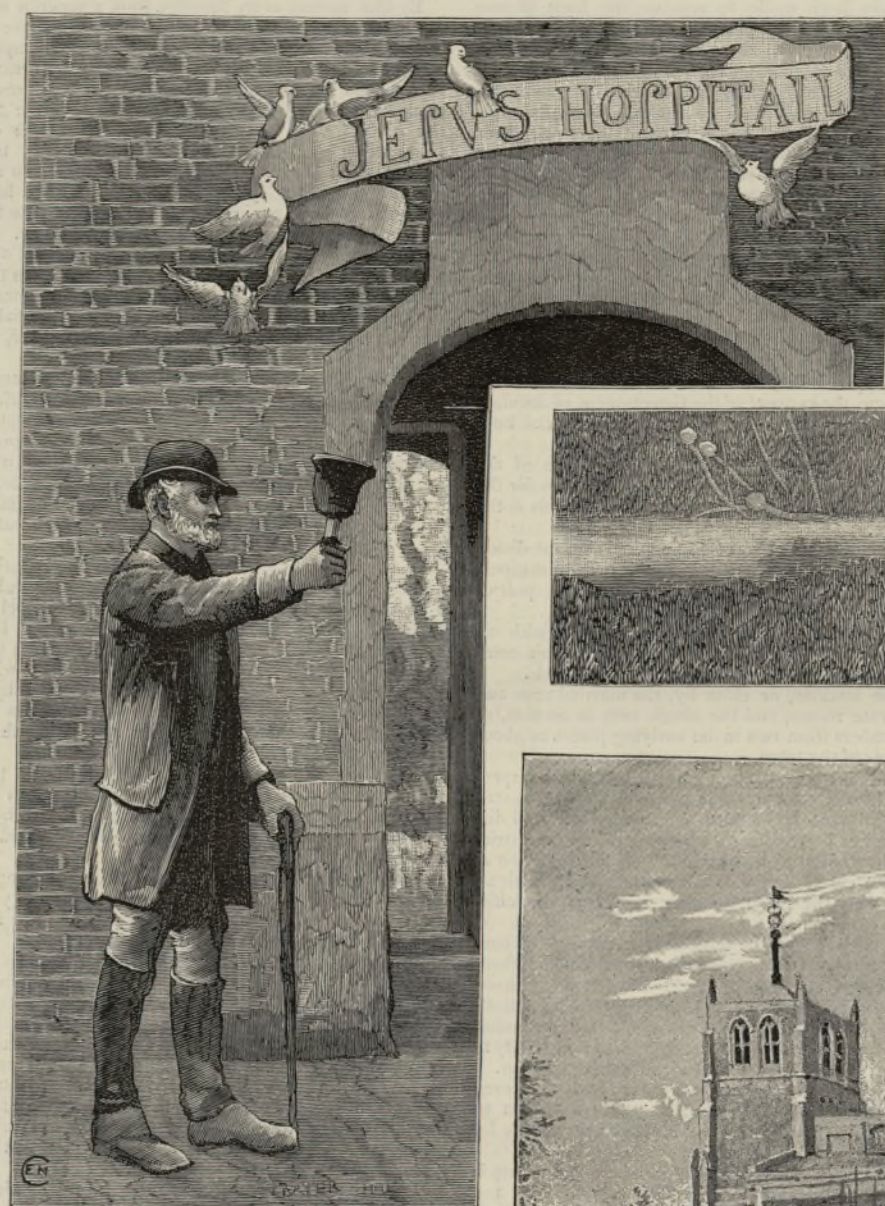
Fire Engine Stations	59
Fire Alarm Call-points	351
Metropolitan Police Stations	89
City Police Stations	7
Total	506

This is a very important advance on the condition of telegraphic communication which existed a few years ago in the metropolis.

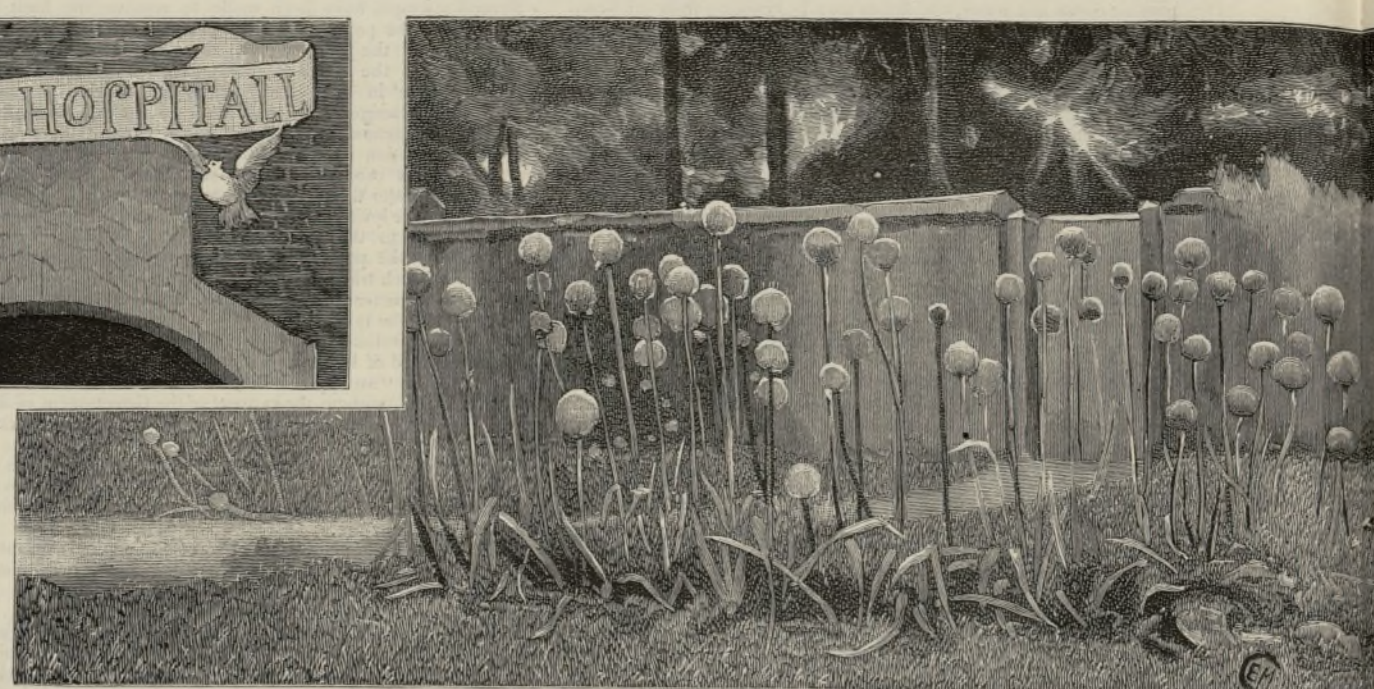
The appointment of firemen being a matter of paramount importance, every care is taken to select good men, and the chief officer sees all candidates at the principal station. Candidates must be seamen, and, as good climbing is an essential qualification, those who have served in sailing vessels are greatly preferred to those who have been much in steamships. The limit of age for candidates varies a little according to circumstances, but no man over thirty years old is ever taken, and those between twenty and twenty-five are much preferred. In order to be able to stand smoke they must measure not less than thirty-seven inches round the chest, and as a general rule at least five feet five inches in height; though this latter point is not very rigidly insisted on in the case of a man with very good testimonials, and a distinct appearance of fitness for the service. They must be men of general intelligence, and able to read and write, and they have to produce certificates of birth and testimonials as to character and service. Each man has to prove his strength by raising a fire-escape single-handed with a tackle. After a man has been measured, had his strength tested, and been approved by the chief officer as stout, strong, healthy-looking, intelligent, and in all other respects apparently eligible, he is sent for medical examination before the surgeon, who, according to his judgment, either rejects or passes him, in either case giving a certificate or a prescribed form. For such a service as a Fire Brigade, which requires all the energies of a man, it is absolutely necessary to appoint only men who are able to pass a surgeon immediately after having gone through the very severe test of strength to which the chief officer invariably subjects all candidates whom he approves.

Formerly the Royal Navy supplied a very large proportion of firemen to the Brigade, but for some years past many vessels of that service have been without masts, and the number of men has considerably fallen off, captains of tops and top-gallant-yard men being almost the only "Blue-jackets" now suitable; and, indeed, the increasing number of steamships in the merchant service has also reduced the number from that source. However, there is always a sufficient number forthcoming, and there is no reason to suppose that there will ever be a deficiency of candidates from the class of climbing seamen, whether of the Royal Navy or the merchant service.

Each man on appointment joins the drill class under the charge of competent instructors, and learns the use of all the appliances. At the same time he lives in the station, and by degrees is taught the general working of the Brigade; but during his course of instruction he never goes to a fire, nothing being found so destructive of sound education in this way as permitting men to attend fires before they know how to handle the appliances properly. A smart man who has served in a climbing capacity at sea for a few years, and has an aptitude for the work of a fireman, can be brought forward for duty within an average period of about six or eight weeks; a man equally smart, but without the advantage of a seaman's training, may possibly be brought forward within about as many months; but, even at the end of that time, he would hardly be as expert as a seaman in climbing and the use of ropes. While a man is passing through the drill class, it is generally discovered whether



PRAYER-TIME



IN THE GARDEN



GENERAL VIEW OF THE HOSPITAL



FRANK



"KING CHARLEY," THE OLDEST RESIDENT



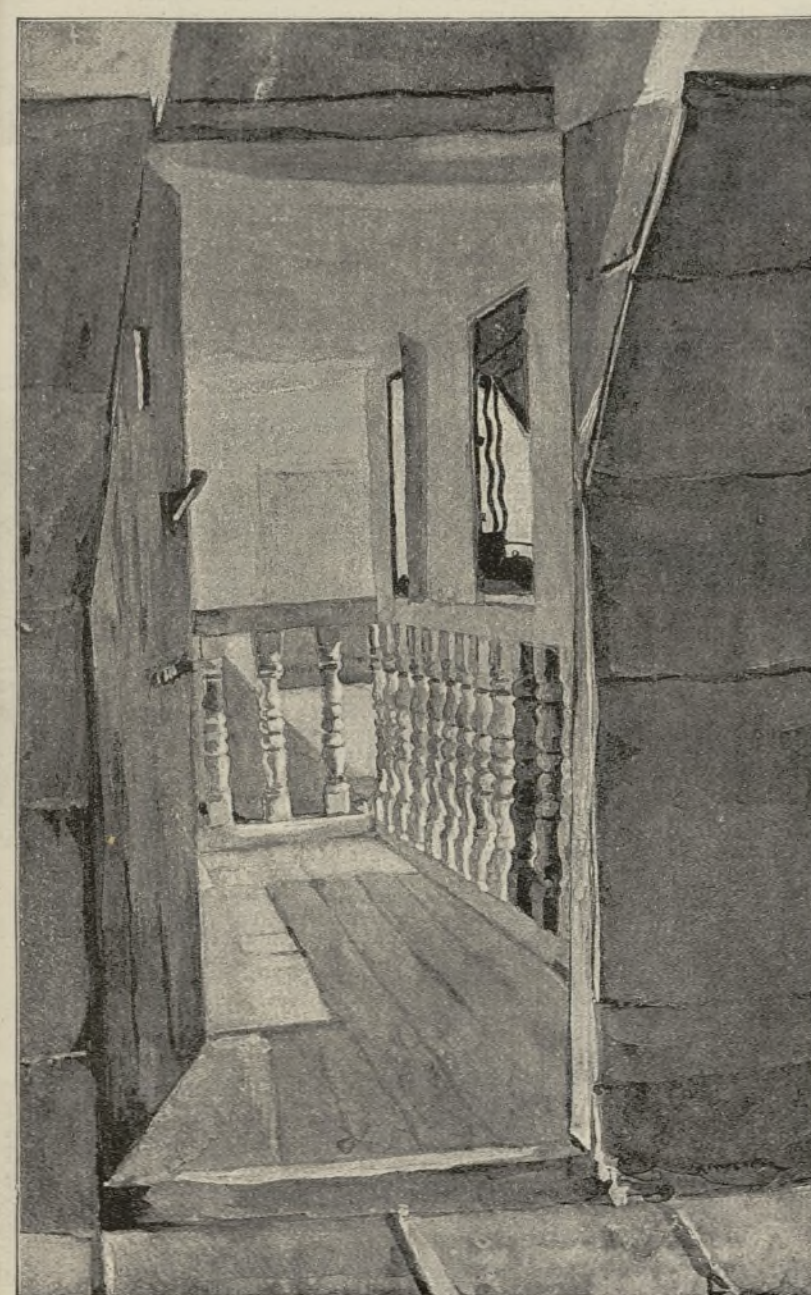
READING PRAYERS



ON THE BENCH



WATCHING THE APPLES



AN OLD DOORWAY



A FUNERAL

JESUS HOSPITAL
AN ANCIENT HOUSE OF CHARITY AT ROTHWELL, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

he is fit for the Brigade or not, and in the latter case his services are discontinued. When a man is pronounced competent to the satisfaction of the chief officer, he is removed from the drill class, and posted to a station, where he enters on the practical work of the service, under the charge of competent officers, and by degrees he gains experience, and learns all the various duties of his position as a fireman of the fourth class. In course of time he creeps up to the top of that class, and, if recommended by his officer, is promoted to the third class, and in the same way to the second and the first class. After being for some time in the first class, if he has passed a special examination in scholarship, so far as is necessary for the work of the Brigade, and if he is recommended by his officer, he is advanced to the probationary position of assistant officer, and, after a satisfactory probation, is promoted to the rank of officer. He then does duty for a time at the Head Quarter Station, after that in charge of the workshops, then in charge of the drill class, and, if he gives satisfaction in all these positions, he is drafted out to a station of which he is placed in charge under the orders of the superintendent of the district. Thus every officer going out first as engineer in charge of a station is straight from the drill class, where he has acted as instructor or under the immediate eye of the chief officer, thereby insuring the accuracy and uniformity of drill, which are so essential to the proper working of the brigade at fires. Some men rise very slowly from the lower to the higher ranks, and some never reach the top; but notwithstanding this they may be very useful and valuable to the Brigade. Indeed, there are many instances of men who have advanced satisfactorily through the four classes of firemen, and who thoroughly understand their business, yet are unable to pass the necessary examination to qualify them for the rank of officer, in which position it is necessary to write reports. The rewards and punishments are administered with the greatest care, and discipline is rigidly enforced even to the extent of punishing a superior for not reporting, or otherwise dealing with any improper act or omission of a subordinate. In the general working of the Brigade every man is always supposed to be either on duty, for duty, on leave, sick, or suspended, and, with the present number of men, and the immense quantity of work to be done, the service is undoubtedly a hard one; but on the other hand the men gain an amount of experience which is wanting in other similar services, and from this all who do not break down gain a great advantage, and many profit afterwards by obtaining good appointments in the provinces, the colonies, and elsewhere. Indeed, for many years past every good man has had two chances of advancement—one in the Brigade, the other outside—and although Captain Shaw frequently deprecates the loss of valuable assistants who leave him to take positions in provincial cities and the colonies, he invariably assists all who have proved themselves worthy, and in point of fact generally himself makes the appointment, the patronage confided to him in this way being occasionally on a rather extensive scale.

All new appliances and apparatus for the Brigade are delivered at the head-quarters, where they are compared with the sealed patterns deposited in the workshops for the purpose, and any articles which do not comply with the specifications are rejected; and, when an officer in charge of a station finds any of his appliances out of order, he at once sends them in to the workshops to be repaired or condemned. In this way the similarity of the screws and other appliances is insured throughout the whole fifty-nine stations of the Brigade, and every article carried on any engine fits the corresponding article on every other, so that when engines stationed at great distances from each other meet at a fire all the gear is interchangeable.

The present strength of the Brigade is as follows:—

- 55 Land Fire-engine Stations.
- 4 Floating Stations.
- 27 Hose-cart Stations.
- 127 Fire-escape Stations.
- 53 Steam Fire-engines.
- 95 Manual Fire-engines.
- 32 Miles of Hose.
- 75 Hose-carts.
- 7 Steam-vessels.
- 11 Rafts or Barges.
- 146 Fire-escapes.
- 9 Long Wire-ladders.

With a large number of vans, trucks, trollies, &c., &c.

- 591 Firemen, including all ranks.
- 16 Pilots.
- 67 Coachmen.
- 131 Horses.

The number of firemen employed on the several watches is at present, 111 by day and 245 by night, making a total of 360 in every 24 hours, and the remaining men are available for general work at fires.

During the year 1887 the number of calls was as follows:—

For Fires or supposed Fires	3,059
For Chimneys or supposed Chimneys	1,655
Total	4,714

or about 13 a day, all of which were attended by firemen with suitable appliances. The actual number of fires was 2,363, and of chimneys on fire 1,655; the remaining calls were false alarms. The number of serious fires was 175, and of slight fires 2,188, and the percentage of serious fires was 7, and of slight 93.

The number of persons seriously endangered by fire was 198, of whom 143 were saved, and 55 lost their lives. Of the 55 lost, 28 were taken out alive but died afterwards in hospitals or elsewhere, and 27 were suffocated or burned to death. The number of journeys made by the fire-engines of the fifty-five land stations was 33,554, and the total distance run was 64,294 miles. The quantity of water used for extinguishing fires during the year was over 26,000,000 gallons, or about 117,000 tons. Among the firemen there were 261 cases of ordinary illness and 91 injuries, making a total of 352 cases, of which many were very serious, and 4 resulted in death. In addition to attending fires, the Brigade kept 131,400 watches of twelve hours each; made 12,000 hydrant inspections; maintained all the machinery and appliances of the establishment in working order; wrote several thousand reports and letters; and carried on a variety of other work. Captain Shaw ends his last official report with these words:—"This represents an amount of work for each member greater than can be shown by any other force with which I am acquainted; and, as the number of fires is always increasing, I venture to express a hope that it may shortly become possible to make a corresponding increase in the strength of the Brigade. In the meanwhile, all ranks are working cheerfully and energetically, and no efforts will be spared to produce the best possible results with the means at the disposal of the Brigade."

Such are the words with which the chief officer concluded his last report, and we are assured by those who have the means of knowing, that officers of the Army and Navy, both of this and other countries, and many officials of other kinds, who have visited the London Brigade and seen the work that is done, have expressed themselves surprised that so small a force could accomplish such results. What the new governing powers may decide, we cannot foretell; but we know that they will be strong, and we ask no more, as we firmly believe that the present organisation of the Fire Brigade is sound in itself and thoroughly prepared for any enlargement which may be necessary for the better protection of London from the ravages of fire.



THE boy is to be congratulated who, during the past week, received "Tent Life in Tigerland" (Sampson Low) as a Christmas present. There is material here for many a pleasant hour in inglenook or window corner, if the reader is not too excited and impetuous to reach the end in the most enjoyable fashion. The author of this volume is the Hon. James Inglis, M.L.A., favourably known before as "Maori," and now Minister for Public Instruction, Sydney, N.S.W. For some years Mr. Inglis enjoyed the privilege of residence in two of the very finest sporting districts of India, Purneah and North Bhaugulpore. He had practically supreme control over many miles of territory there, and feudal jurisdiction over scores of villages and leagues of jungle. Moreover, at a subsequent date, he had charge of very extensive grants of "waste" or untitled jungle lands in the district of Kheri, in the North-West Provinces, and was actively engaged in reclaiming the virgin forest, and administering great estates in a wild and comparatively unsettled country. On cordial terms with his comrades and sporting friends, the author was, as he tells us, "a good listener as well as an industrious scribe," and so embellished his note-books to some purpose. As a specimen of Mr. Inglis's style of descriptive narrative we may choose a passage from the story of the fight between a tiger and a boar, seen from a hiding-hole near a pool where the beasts came to water. "With one swift dexterous sweep of the strong ready paw, the tiger fetched the boar a terrific slap right across the jaw, which made the strong beast reel; but with a hoarse grunt of resolute defiance, with two or three short, sharp digs of the strong head and neck, and swift cutting blows of the cruel gashing tusks, he seemed to make a hole or two in the tiger's coat, marking it with more stripes than nature ever painted there, and presently both combatants were streaming with gore. The tremendous buffet of the sharp claws had torn flesh and skin away from off the boar's cheek and forehead, leaving a great ugly flap hanging over his face, and half blinding him. The pig was now on his mettle. With another hoarse grunt, he made straight for the tiger, who very dexterously eluded the charge, and lithe and quick as a cat after a mouse, doubled almost on itself, and alighted clean on the boar's back, inserting his teeth above the shoulders, tearing with his claws, and biting out great mouthfuls of flesh from the quivering carcase of his maddened antagonist." As to how for a moment after this the tables were turned, and the boar, like Scott's Lord of Colinsay, took a grim revenge, while Mr. Inglis shot both combatants, we must refer the reader to "Tent Life in Tiger Land," where a vivacious narrative is made all the more pleasant to the mind's eye by sixteen illustrations in chromo-lithography.

The country lying north of the Danube-mouth is becoming tolerably familiar to the English reader who has acquaintance with modern books of travel. We are taken, however, by Mrs. Walker, author of "Eastern Life and Scenery," in her new volume, "Untrodden Paths in Roumania" (Chapman and Hall), into nooks and corners of the land of "Carmen Sylva" where the ordinary voyager rarely ventures. Mrs. Walker was especially struck by some of the sadder consequences of the suppression of many of the monasteries several years ago. Prince Couza's measure was, as she says, a wise and necessary measure, which supplied the State with vast accumulated wealth. It was, however, too sweeping, too sudden, too severe. "It is piteous," says the author, "now to meet with venerable men and women, many of whom entered their convents in early childhood, reduced to straitened means, which, for those who have not private resources, is synonymous with penury and destitution. Some gentler method might surely have been adopted by which those worthy members of communities who had known 'better days' might have been spared their present trials; and if the tender-hearted Queen Elizabeth could, as a simple and unknown tourist, see some of these dignified and gentle maicas, or the venerable archimandrite of a forgotten community, away in an almost unknown solitude of the Carpathians, her heart would ache with pity for misfortunes for which these poor people are in no way responsible." Probably a traveller in England just after the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII. would have had similar experiences, for the conventual foundations undoubtedly sheltered worth as well as luxurious sloth.

Mr. Benjamin Ellis Martin has given a very pretty form to the permanent record of his historical and topographical lore anent a famous quarter of London, and the pencil of Mr. Joseph Pennell has been used with taste and effect in brightening the letterpress. "Old Chelsea: a Summer Day's Stroll" (Fisher Unwin), is the title, and the conceit helps Mr. Martin to dispose of his multifarious information to good advantage. "The stroll," says the author, "may be imagined to be taken during the summer of 1888, all the dates, descriptions, and references herein having been brought down to the present moment." On the cover is an accurate copy of a specimen of Old Chelsea ware, one of the plates of the set belonging once to Dr. Johnson, now in Holland House. Many pleasant associations are revived and brought home to us by Mr. Martin. As we follow him by the Thames we can almost fancy, in his own words, that "the whole still surface of the stream becomes alive for us with a fairy flotilla, born of the brain, yet real enough to our vision. There float ancient barges, six and eight-oared, gorgeous with gilding, or severely simple; those of brilliant noblemen, of the City Guilds—of Royalty itself. We seem to see Henry VIII. rowing up on a visit to More; Elizabeth coming to call on Lord Charles Howard of Effingham, 'him who scattered the Spaniard's Invincible Navy for her.'"

"Ye Seconde Boke of Odde Volumes" (Wyman and Sons). This little book, edited by Mr. W. M. Thompson, is only printed for private circulation, but as some copies have been sent round to the Press we presume we may lawfully say a few words about it. "Ye Sette of Odd Volumes" is a club which was founded about ten years ago by Mr. Quaritch, the bookseller, Mr. Charles Wyman, and some others. It consists of twenty-one persons, and was primarily intended merely to promote good-fellowship; but, as the members are all of a book-loving, antiquarian turn, they combine instruction with amusement at their gatherings, and have put forth from time to time a series of interesting *opuscula* on such subjects as Lovers' Posies, Chiromancy, Calligraphy, Children's Books of the Last Century, &c., and very dainty little volumes they are. The book now before us is of a more prosaic character, being devoted to an account of the club and its transactions, together with biographies and portraits of the members. The word "odd" is not used to imply eccentricity; the idea is that each member is an "odd volume," *i.e.*, when isolated from his fellows, but that, meeting with these congenial spirits, he forms part of a "sette." It will be observed that, according to modern fashion, the club are fond of old English spelling; they also, like the Freemasons, dub their office-holders with various queer titles, such as Leech, Chapman, Astrologer, and Necromancer. Those who have partaken of their hospitality—and they are in this respect very generous—know them for a body of exceedingly courteous and pleasant gentlemen.

"Shakespeare's Dramatic Works," by W. H. Davenport Adams (T. Nelson and Sons). Comprised in two stout volumes of about 700 pages each, printed in small but legible type, and embellished

by 370 illustrations (in the outline style of Retzsch) by the late Frank Howard, R.A., this is one of the handiest and most useful editions of Shakespeare which we have seen. Mr. Adams has done his editorial work carefully and thoroughly; he has followed the most generally-accepted readings; he has supplied a biography of the poet, embodying all that is authentically known about him; an abundance of foot-notes, brief and to the point; a glossary, and an appendix containing an index to the characters, and much other interesting Shakespearian information. In short, except for those who prefer the Bard in a series of tiny volumes, this seems the Shakespeare *par excellence* for persons of moderate means.

"Japan and Its Art," by M. B. Huish (Fine Art Publishing Company). Mr. Marcus Huish has written a most charming little book. We must emphasise the word little, because most of the published works on Japan are both ponderous in price and size. It is a fascinating subject, and handled by a competent enthusiast. We do not exactly know what the Art Congress recently held at Liverpool would say to the following extract:—"As a natural result of peace and quietness the Arts in the seventeenth and eighteenth century flourished to an extraordinary degree; not a single branch of them but advanced year by year, until shortly after the commencement of the present century, when a decadence set in, as the result of excessive luxury. The policy of isolation from other nations, much as it injured the country, was nothing less than a blessing to its Art, which continued to be pure, individual, and unmechanical." The book abounds with admirable illustrations.

The chief merit of "Hood's Comic Annual" (Fun Office) is the lively manner in which it is illustrated, the friendly competition between author and artist to entertain the public resulting in the artist getting much the best of it. Mr. Gordon Thomson, in his amusing drawing of "Our Beauty Show," manages to introduce most excellent likenesses in the minutest form, and by means of the slightest touches.



ONE always opens a new novel by Miss Dora Russell in the pleasant assurance of finding two good things—an interesting story interestingly told, and an unpretending and workmanlike style. If she seldom rises above her own standard of merit, she still more seldom falls below it; and the former is certainly the case in "The Track of the Storm" (3 vols.: Hurst and Blackett). While more intricate and fuller of sensational incident than usual, her story is a great deal better put together than most of its predecessors, and it contains episodes, such as that of the young gentleman who kept a butcher's shop in the Edgware Road in order to annoy his aristocratic father, which may even be called original in their treatment, and sometimes in their conception. No doubt her improvement in construction has not been quite sufficient to save Miss Russell from the commission of a good many signal improbabilities—indeed, too many; and from that abuse of coincidences which is the resource of novelists who have not yet mastered the crowning art of concealing their machinery. Still she has not gone very far beyond the licence allowed where anything in the nature of sensation enters; and the coincidences soon become so numerous and such matter of course, that one becomes used to them. On the whole, "The Track of the Storm" is not only more interesting than its predecessors, but is better as a work of art, and is therefore evidence of an advance which we trust may be maintained.

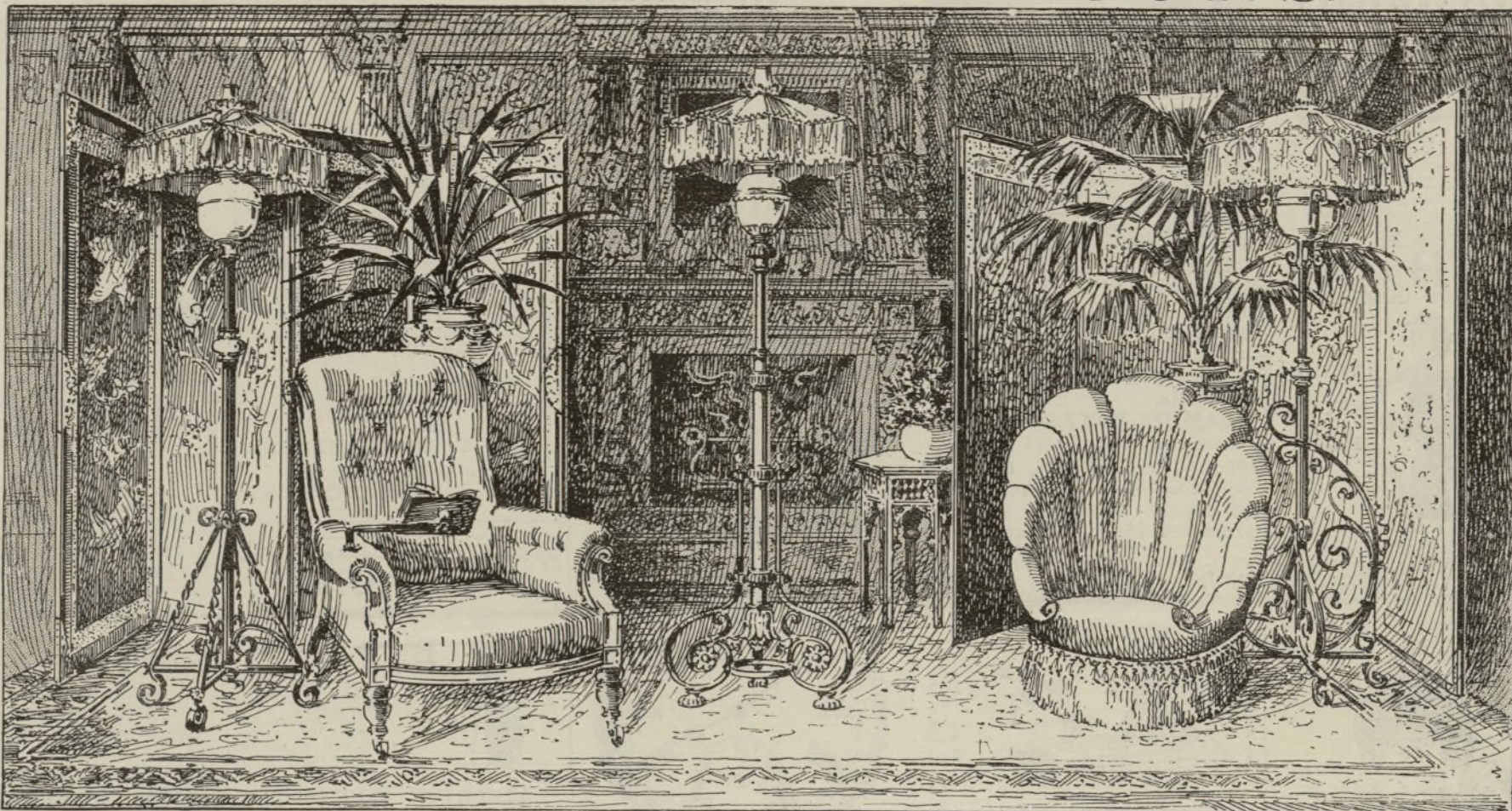
It is to be hoped, as it is probable, that Dr. B. W. Richardson found a great deal of pleasure in writing "The Son of a Star" (3 vols.: Longmans and Co.), because it will then have given pleasure and interest to, at any rate, one person in the world. That anybody elshould struggle through a single volume of it, except out of a sense of duty, is incredible. Its want of attractiveness is not due to the fact that it deals with a personage so remote from living interest as the brigand and false Messiah called Barchochebas, who disturbed the close of the reign of Hadrian. That difficulty is not invincible by a master of fiction. It is that Dr. Richardson, so far from being a master, evidently knows no more—practically, at least—of the art of fiction than an average novelist knows of medicine. His characters, even those which are historical, and invite portraiture, like Hadrian or Akiba, are as wooden and stilted as the style of the so-called novel—a style which is something between exceptionally cumbrous prose labouring vainly to be poetry, and bombastic poetry trying to look like prose. The purely fictitious characters are too purely phantoms to be called wooden, and the period wanders about vaguely among the ages. It is certainly bewildering to find that Home Rule for Ireland and teetotalism were questions well to the front so early as the second century. Of course, it is the custom for historical novelists to "adapt" their history; and therefore we will say nothing on that score, though it will startle most people to learn that Antinous was really a Hebrew prophetess in disguise.

"Miss Hildreth," by A. De Grasse Stevens (3 vols.: Ward and Downey), is a Russo-American novel, in which the Russian portion is decidedly more interesting, as is natural enough, than the American. Both portions are grotesquely improbable; but Mr. Stevens evidently knows something about the outside life of St. Petersburg, and so far says well the little he has to say. When we used the word "interesting," we spoke in a comparative sense only, with regard to descriptive portions; for to take any real interest in the story or in the characters is out of the question. The story wants point, and the characters decidedly want intelligible motive. And then Mr. Stevens has little irritating tricks. The dramatic sense must be singularly dull in the case of an author capable of making a Russian official quote Tennyson's "Charge of the Light Brigade" in the course of a soliloquy, *à propos* of his opinion that somebody had been blundering in a police case. And a writer who speaks of entering into an "inner sanctorum" is obviously gifted with capacities for irritating without further proof of them. The work is sadly amateurish from beginning to end.

Florence Marryat's "A Crown of Shame" (3 vols.: F. V. White and Co.), is anything but a pleasant novel. It hangs about vice in that morbid manner, as if there were some invincible fascination in it, which was at one time the characteristic note of the lady novelist as a class, and which is not even yet sufficiently uncommon. From a literary point of view, it is certainly better than most of its author's recent works; and the humours of West Indian life are evidently not even yet completely exhausted, as a source of amusement. By substituting the coolie for the usual negro, Florence Marryat has been able to find a fresh field which will doubtless bear still further exploration.

The title of Mrs. H. Lovett Cameron's "This Wicked World" (3 vols.: F. V. White and Co.), promises a great deal more than it performs. None of the characters, save a very subordinate country doctor who does not signify, is very wicked; but they are all exceedingly silly, and therefore exceedingly tiresome, and with an immense capacity for maudlin flirtation. The one oasis is a wonderful Bohemian club, called the Seraphians, where there are no snobs; where every man is taken exactly at his actual value; where there are no jealousies and no littlenesses, even though it is frequented by every grade of the dramatic, musical, and literary callings. And yet Mrs. Cameron speaks on her title-page of "this wicked world." A world which possessed such a club would be within measurable distance of the Millennium.

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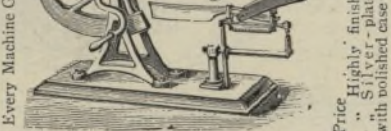


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