

There is notoriously a certain amount of jealousy and ill-feeling between the engineers and the executive officers of the Royal Navy. This is manifestly prejudicial to the welfare of the Service: and it is the obvious duty of every good captain to discourage it as much as possible. Unfortunately there are captains who, instead of striving to narrow the breach, do all that lies in their power to widen it. Here is a case in point. In one of the Mediterranean flagships there is a young engineer officer who is possessed of considerable private means, who is no longer a boy, and who spends his money and his leisure in such ways as are natural to a healthy-minded Englishman. He is fond of riding and driving, and, when on shore, he occasionally drives tandem. The other day his captain, whose professional ability is more conspicuous than his urbanity, sent for the engineer, and told him that he considered driving tandem did not become an officer of his station: he, therefore, advised him to stop it forthwith. Now it happens that in the same ship there are at least two executive officers who are also accustomed to drive tandem. The captain has found no fault with them, though there are special and particular reasons why he should do so.

Since Mr. Bradlaugh's illness was to prove fatal, it is a pleasure to think that he lived long enough to hear of the friendly feeling for him which was so strikingly displayed in the House of Commons on Tuesday evening. His decease may be regarded as no loss by the ranting Socialists to whom he was so courageously opposed; they, no doubt, will regard it as "a happy release;" but to most people, including many whose religious opinions he so violently offended, it will be sincerely deplored. It took some courage, complete honesty, to confront the Socialism which taught, amongst other lies, that Bradlaugh had deserted the People through whose suffrages he had risen. Mr. Bradlaugh's opinions on many subjects were not ours. We do not doubt that in his time he did much mischief, and some that he must have recognised as mischief in his later days, when it began to bear fruit. But he had honesty; he had courage, he did not shrink from self-sacrifice, nor even feel it as such; which is as much as to say that he was a better man than many weaklings of more orthodox opinions.

"Cease to do Evil; learn to do well," is the proposed motto for the new police-station to be erected in Guildford. When the plans were discussed at a meeting of the Town Council, Alderman Crooke took exception to the motto, which he said was all very well for a church or school, but something more significant ought to be invented for a police station. "Justitia" would be better.—Councillor Bullen: Surely you would not go so far as to say that at the present moment justice is not administered to the criminal in Guildford, which one might infer from your remark. I think the motto may be allowed to pass, because it will tell people "this is a place for punishment. We ask you to 'cease to do evil, learn to do well,' and then you will never come to this place" (laughter).—The Mayor suggested that the motto might be omitted.—Councillor Taylor observed that if the argument of Mr. Bullen were correct the proper motto would be "Keep away from here."—Alderman Crooke. That would be better.—Councillor Taylor: If Mr. Crooke is afraid of the namby-pambyism, I would suggest that we borrow the motto of the Salvation Army, and put up "Blood and Fire" (renewed laughter).—Councillor Wrist thought that, as the new police-station would face the market place, the present motto might exercise a very beneficial influence over the traders.—Ultimately the plans were adopted, and the motto was allowed to remain.

PURITY OF RECRUITS FOR THE ARMY.—That it should be seriously proposed to arrange for the delivery of lectures throughout the country on the advantages which the army offers to young men indicates to what a pass the difficulty of enlisting recruits has come. Commanders of infantry regiments are said to be in a serious fix, and recently, it is added, it was declared to be impossible to comply with an instruction to provide drafts for foreign service. No doubt improved trade has a good deal to do with the scarcity of re-

cruits, but it is quite possible that a knowledge of the soldier's grievances and disabilities greatly contributes thereto. As intelligence spreads amongst the masses and wages are increased, it stands to reason that the lot of the private soldier must be made more tolerable and much more attractive than it is at present if the strength of the army is to be kept up to its proper standard.

This is a pretty way of putting it. Baron von Soden, on his way from Central Africa to Berlin, is going to "acclimatise himself" in Southern Europe. That is what they call it now at Monte Carlo.

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