

## WINDSOR WEEK-ENDING

### HOMELY HOSPITALITY FOR THE KING'S GUESTS.

#### His Majesty's Genial Conviviality and Tact Puts Every One at Ease.

Ambitious politicians rejoice when the King takes up his residence at Windsor Castle, for whilst there, His Majesty has an endless succession of visitors, consisting of Cabinet Ministers, Ambassadors, and other important political personages, who are invited down to the Castle for a week-end, or during the week to "dine and sleep."

At Windsor they can talk business with His Majesty, or discuss the details of any matters in which he is particularly interested, without most of the conventions and restrictions which usually cut off the Sovereign from his subjects.

If a large party of people are expected, a special train is provided for them from London, and a number of Royal servants are sent to look after them. If only a single guest has been invited, a special carriage is reserved upon an ordinary train, and a closed carriage and pair with a postillion is sent to the station at Windsor.

Guests are expected to time their arrival at Windsor for about half-past six, by which time everything is ready for their reception at the visitor's entrance, which is hidden away in a corner of the great quadrangle.

In an ante-chamber which faces the quadrangle just above the equerries' room, the visitors sort themselves out, and are shown to their various rooms, all of which have a small brass tablet on the door, engraved with

#### A CROWN AND A NUMBER.

All the guest-chambers are very cozily furnished, and each of them contains interesting family portraits sketched by members of the Royal Family, and a quantity of magnificent old silver. There is a special suite called the "Minister's Rooms" in the Lancaster Tower, reserved for important political guests.

Dinner-time, if the number of guests is small, is not nearly such an awe-inspiring function as the visitor fears, for the King's genial conviviality and tact are never more clearly shown than when entertaining a "Commoner." Formality is dispensed with as much as possible, and His Majesty invariably succeeds in putting the most nervous visitor completely at his ease.

During the after-dinner smoke he throws off all reserve, and jokes and chats to his guests just as an ordinary individual.

The King and Queen usually retire to their private apartments about ten or eleven o'clock, but the guests need not necessarily do the same. They may please themselves what time they go to bed just as if they were at home.

If His Majesty wants a quiet chat with one of his guests, he frequently finds time to do so.

#### HIS OWN SITTING-ROOM.

where, comfortably installed in the deep chairs which are quite a feature in the room, and with the solace of a big cigar, they can talk a case. The King's sitting-room is a delightfully homely apartment. The walls, which were once plain, are now broken by a frieze of soft green and a high dado of carved mahogany. This dado forms a lovely setting for the many family portraits the King has gathered round him.

In his liking for such works His Majesty follows the taste of his mother. But, unlike Queen Victoria, the King prefers handsome rugs and furs to a carpet on the floor. Many tables, a large escurtoire, dispatch-boxes, flowers, and photographs, books, papers, and smoking implements give a pleasantly lived-in air to the room.

On a rug before the fireplace the King's favorite wire-haired terrier is generally stretched in luxurious ease. He greets his Royal master and his master's friends with an impartial wag of the tail and a wide yawn.

The King's bedroom, which leads out of his study, is decorated in green, which is his favorite color. The draperies and upholsterings are of green silk while a fine woven Irish carpet fills the centre of the room.

Many of the King's guests sit up and play cards or billiards after their Majesties have retired.

#### THE BILLIARD-ROOM

At Windsor Castle, which forms one of the private rooms of the gentlemen of the Court, is jealously guarded from strangers just like a London club, but His Majesty's guests are free to make use of the room.

In the ante-chamber the names of all visitors are entered in a big leather book by a uniformed attendant. Within the room the club spirit prevails, and there is no question of rank or precedence. A gentleman usher has as much right to select his cue as the Lord Steward, and should a member of the Royal Family enter the room, what-

ever game is being played is continued without interruption.

At Windsor Castle breakfast in the morning is served in the various rooms occupied by the guests, unless a visitor has an intimate friend in the Household, in which case he joins him at the first meal.

Neither the King nor Queen ever appear at breakfast, but they generally say "Good-bye" to the guests before they leave. But sometimes, if the visitor is going early, the leave-taking is done the last thing on the night before.—Pearson's Weekly.

#### REAL SHAM FIGHTS.

Some Tragical Tales of Military Manoeuvres.

A very bad disaster befell during the manoeuvres of the Russian Army near St. Petersburg in the summer of 1902, and the cruel part of it was that it was caused by an unforgivable blunder on the part of a commanding officer.

Some infantry were supposed to be entrenched on a rising ground about a mile away, and a squadron of cavalry were ordered to charge them. Instantly the troopers put spurs to their horses, and were off like the wind. Their officer ought, of course, to have known that there was a river between them and the high ground; but evidently he had not studied his map.

The river was a creek, narrow but deep, and with high, steep banks. The men never saw it till it was too late. They could not stop themselves, and nearly the whole squadron went in. Fifty-three men were drowned, and nearly a hundred horses.

That things are not all they might be in the Austrian Army is proved by the extreme care which is taken by the authorities to see that no troops can get at any ball cartridges before the annual manoeuvres. There have been several cases of officers being shot at with ball cartridges, when only blanks have been served out.

The last incident of the kind which became public occurred about a year ago, near Linz, when a bullet fired from a Bohemian regiment whistled right between two members of the general staff, who were standing some two hundred yards away. This bullet found a billet. It struck a soldier of the Tyrolean Jaegers in the chest, and killed him on the spot.

The most ghastly thing that ever happened during peace manoeuvres was in Japan. The climate of North Japan is quite severe, and it is part of the duty of officers stationed in the north to exercise their men in marching across the snow.

On a bitter January day an infantry detachment, consisting of two hundred men, under command of a major, left the town of Awamori for snow-marching.

A fresh snowstorm came on, and they lost their way. They found themselves among the hills, amid huge, twenty-foot drifts. One by one the deadly snow-sleep seized them. They could find no fuel, and burnt their rifle stocks and haversacks to keep warm. Within forty-eight hours all but seventy had perished.

On a blizzard day a relief party picked up one man—a corporal—the only survivor left to tell the history of this march of death.

#### A ROPE OF WORMS.

Curious Procession That May be Seen in Norway.

In the deep pine forests of Norway the woodcutters sometimes find a serpentine object, fifty feet long, crawling slowly over the ground. If they did not know that it was made up of millions of little worms, they might be frightened by its peculiar appearance.

These worms, called the sciara, gather during July and August in large numbers, preparatory to migrating in search of food or for change of condition. When setting out on this journey, they stick themselves together and form a huge serpentlike mass, often reaching a length of between forty and fifty feet and several inches in thickness.

As the sciara is only on an average about three thirty-seconds of an inch in length, and barely wider than a fine needle, the number required to compose a line of the size above mentioned is enormous.

Their pace is very slow, and upon meeting an obstacle, such as a stick or stone, they will either break over or around it, sometimes breaking into bodies for this purpose.

A celebrated naturalist says that, if the rear portion of this wonderful snake-like procession be brought into contact with the front part and a sort of circle formed, the insects will keep moving round and round in that circle for hours and hours without apparently noticing that they are not getting on in their journey. If the procession be broken in two, the portions will reunite in a short time.

The Norwegian peasants, when they meet one of these trains, will lay some article of their clothing, such as a belt or handkerchief, on the ground in front of it. If the procession passes over it, it is regarded as a good sign; but if it goes round the obstacle the reverse is believed.

## FROM BONNIE SCOTLAND

### NOTES OF INTEREST FROM HER BANKS AND BRAES.

#### What is Going On in the Highlands and Lowlands of Auld Scotia.

There are 6,783 children under 17 in inverness.

There are 272 entries at the cadet school in Glasgow recently.

It has been resolved to continue the High School Cadet corps of Glasgow.

Ayrshire's share in the allocation of the Scottish education fund is \$110,505.

About \$5,000 of damage was done by fire in Dempster Gardens, Inverness.

It is proposed to establish bursaries in the West of Scotland Agricultural College.

Nine of the twenty torpedo boat destroyers ordered by the admiralty are to be built on the Clyde.

Several hundred pounds of damage was done by fire in the ropeworks on Old Glamis road, Dundee.

There died in Edinburgh recently, Mr. Alex. Robb, late chief ticket inspector, Highland Railway.

At Stirling the winter season is foretold by the "sippy" mornings and evenings and the fall of the leaf.

A draft of 150 officers and men of the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Scots left Edinburgh recently for India.

An ornamental guard railing is at last to be put up on Dean Bridge, Edinburgh, to prevent suicides there.

Mr. A. H. Gibson, Manchester, has been appointed to the chair of engineering in Dundee University College.

Twenty-five thousand dollars has been promised towards the extension of Stirling Royal Infirmary. \$50,000 is, however, aimed at.

The King has approved of the Fife and Forfar and Kincardineshire units of Royal Field Artillery being disbanded.

A mysterious murder case has occurred in Musselburgh. The body greatly decomposed, was found in a sack.

The old bell of Elderslie has been stolen. For about 200 years it hung above the old porch entrance to the stable.

At Renfrew recently Provost Ferguson laid the memorial stone of the new police buildings. They are to cost \$30,000.

The site of R. Napier & Sons' old shipbuilding yard near Govan was exposed recently at \$150,000, but did not sell.

Montrose town council has petitioned the postmaster-general against any restrictions as to Sunday traffic at the post office.

An alteration has been effected at Leith Old Dock. The wall, which was laid down 100 years ago, has been heightened and the causeway relaid.

Admiral Sir Charles Campbell visited Glasgow recently, where he interviewed a number of prominent local supporters of the Forth and Clyde Ship Canal scheme.

Miss Wilson Smith, a new Berkshire lady, has accomplished the ascent of Ben Nevis in 1 hour 51 minutes, beating the best previous record by a lady by 8½ minutes.

Bibliographies are being prepared of Robert Burns, Allan Ramsay, and Robert Ferguson. The bibliography of Burns has been engaging the attention of Mr. J. C. Ewing of Glasgow.

The members of the Scottish Aeronautical Society whose headquarters are in Glasgow, held their first kite flying demonstration on the 11th ult. at Houston. Considerable interest was taken in the experiments.

#### IT IS NOT EASY—

To apologize.  
To begin again.  
To take advice.  
To be unselfish.  
To be charitable.  
To be considerate.  
To endure success.  
To obey conscience.  
To admit mistakes.  
To forgive and forget.  
To think and then act.  
To be content with little.  
To accept just rebukes gracefully.  
To value character above reputation.  
To discriminate between sham and real.  
But it pays.

It's a wise bird that can fit through a lawyer's office without losing a few feathers.

Some writer has said that as a rule preachers are not witty. Perhaps this may be due to the fact that brevity is the soul of wit.

The man who can tell you just how a thing ought to be done is seldom busy.

When a man insists that he knows what he is talking about, make him prove it.

## "SMART SET" SMUGGLERS.

### Up-to-date Dodges to Evade the Customs Authorities.

More than three thousand people, the majority of them well to do, are fined every year for smuggling in Great Britain alone.

The smugglers of to-day are nearly all "amateurs," inasmuch as they smuggle for the love of the thing.

Only a year or two ago, the captain of a very well-known racing yacht was charged with smuggling more than two thousand pounds' worth of cigars, tobacco, and spirits into an English port. The smuggling was done at the dead of night.

The smart swift racing yacht put out from Ostend with all the dutiable articles concealed beneath the boards of the deck, and the steward attempted to row the contraband ashore in the vessel's dinghy. He was caught, however, and the rest of the cargo was speedily brought to light. It was one of the most sensational captures—owing to the social status of the people concerned—and one of the biggest from the financial point of view, which has been effected in recent years.

A well-known but impetuous Russian Count carried on a contraband trade for years under the eyes of the Customs officials. He had his suspicions aroused, made of his legs, and as he hobbled into the town of Kattowitz, on the Russian frontier, where he was well known, he seemed the last person to be accused of being a smuggler.

But one day a "cute" official, who had his suspicions aroused, made the Count unscrew his wooden leg for inspection. Inside it they found two new revolvers, boxes of cartridges, and large quantities of cigars and cigarettes. The authorities promptly confiscated the limb, forgetting that the Count could not walk without it. Finally, he had to be carried in the arms of the Customs house officials to the guardhouse.

One of the most amusing cases of "smart set" smuggling by a lady occurred a few years ago in England. She was exceedingly well connected, but she had an incurable love for evading the customs just for excitement, and her husband, who was a very nervous little man, suffered agonies whenever they came near a port. At last he made her promise to give it up, and she consented in order to humor him, but at the same time hid away in her clothes material liable to duty to the value of \$1,000.

On arriving in the Thames, her husband reflected that if his wife were not searched she would probably reproach him for spoiling a good chance of doing the Crown, so as soon as the officers came on board, he whispered to one: "If you will send a female searcher to that lady there, I think goods will be found upon her she ought to declare."

When he was told a few minutes later that a smart capture had been effected, that the lady would have to go to prison, and that half the reward would go to himself, he collapsed.

## LISTENING—A GIFT.

### Hints for Girls Who Chatter Frivolous Nonsense.

It is a well-known fact that anyone can talk. But how many master the art of listening?

Some gifted girls already listen well, for to some it is given to excel in this admirable characteristic.

It is to those who have no natural gift in this direction that a serious thought with regard to listening would not be out of place.

Men can find pretty girls who incessantly chatter light, frivolous nonsense by the hour together; but they cannot readily discover the maid who is willing to sit attentive while they supply the topic of conversation.

No; the world is sadly in need of good listeners, and it would be well for the girl of to-day to remember this fact, and try to supply the great need.

The average man has a keen liking for the sound of his own voice, but that keen liking is sadly missing where the voice of another is concerned. To become popular, girls must lend themselves to fall in with the circumstances which they find around them.

If, for instance, the modern girl is confronted by the modern youth, who happens to have a great idea of the value of his own conversational powers, what is her wisest course?

Should she wish to make a good impression upon the youth in question, she must listen good-humoredly and attentively whilst he discourses, and allow him to feel that he has found a sympathy which has hitherto been lacking in his young life.

And there is no reason why girls should have to force themselves into this frame of demeanour. With a little practice, the gracious habit of listening can be acquired, and its attractive qualities are more fascinating than much of the up-to-date jargon which issues from the eager lips of the girl of to-day.

An average orange-tree yields during its life about 20,000 oranges.

## CANADA'S FIRST STEAMER

### JOHN MOLSON, OF MONTREAL, THE PIONEER.

#### Over One Hundred Years Since the Accommodation's Initial Trip.

It was in August, 1807, that Fulton's boat, the Clermont, made her first trip to Albany under steam. While Fulton was working upon this enterprise John Molson, a Canadian merchant, resident in Montreal, was engaged in a similar undertaking, with the St. Lawrence as the river upon which he proposed to operate. In 1809 he had his first steamer built, and on Nov. 3 of that year the little vessel made her initial trip from Montreal to Quebec.

#### MONTREAL TO QUEBEC.

A small affair was the Accommodation, as Molson's boat was called. She was 72 feet in length and 15 feet beam, and her engine was of six horse power. She had berths for twenty passengers. These seem to have been very necessary, for, as the vessel anchored at night, the trip from Montreal to Quebec, 180 miles, took three days, while the return trip, against the current, took one day longer. All Montreal assembled to witness the departure of the Accommodation on her first voyage, and all Quebec gathered on the heights to welcome her arrival. A quaint description of the Accommodation is given by the Quebec Mercury of that period.

#### A DESCRIPTION OF HER.

"No wind or tide can stop her," says the writer. "The great advantage attending her is that a passage may be calculated upon to a degree of certainty in point of time which cannot be the case with any vessel propelled by sail only. The steamboat receives her impulse from an open, double-spoked perpendicular wheel on each side, without circular band or rim. To the end of each spoke is fixed a square board, which enters the water, and by the rotary motion of the wheel acts like a paddle. The wheels are kept in motion by steam operating within the vessel."

#### GRANTED CHARTER.

It is interesting to learn that the fare between Montreal and Quebec on this steamer was \$8 going east and \$9 going west, which included berth, and meals. It is also of interest to find that John Molson was encouraged to enter upon this enterprise by the grant of an exclusive charter to navigate the St. Lawrence by steam fifteen years.

Molson was undertaking what was the less worthy, while his success was certainly more marked, from the personal or financial standpoint. Unhappily, Fulton experienced business difficulties, while John Molson laid the foundations of a great fortune.

#### FIRST OCEAN STEAMER.

Canada did not float the first river steamer, but she had in the Royal William, the first ocean steamer, that honors are even. Fulton, let it be repeated, deserves recognition. But so does Molson, the Canadian pioneer who sent his first steamer down the St. Lawrence on Nov. 3, 1809—one hundred years ago.

#### A FAIR OFFER.

Cook—"And sez I, 'I think I'll find another job.'"  
Friend—"What did the missis say?"  
Cook—"She sez, 'Bedad an' Oi'll give you twenty-five dollars when yez don't go.'"

#### DEFINITION.

"Pa, what's the difference between idealism and realism?"  
"Idealism, my son, is the contemplation of marriage; realism is being married."

#### HIS RETORT.

His Wife (during the spat)—"Oh, I wish I were a man!"  
Her Husband—"I don't. If you were I'd feel duty bound to mop the floor with you."

#### BEWARE.

"Sharp words," said Uncle Eben, "is like razors, useful now an' then, but dan'ous playthings."

#### AN IMPROVEMENT.

Said He—"Since I met you I have only one thought."  
Said She—"Well, that's one more than you had when we met."

#### ALWAYS ON THE GO.

Mayme—"I understand the man Elvira is engaged to is a great traveler."  
Edith—"Yes, indeed! He's a street-car conductor."

Mrs. Newlywed—"It's just brutal of you to call it 'this stuff.' You said you'd be glad if I baked my own bread, and—"  
Mr. Newlywed—"Yes; but I didn't say I wanted you to bake mine."

## FROM ERIN'S GREEN ISLE

### NEWS BY MAIL FROM IRELAND'S SHORES.

#### Happenings in the Emerald Isle of Interest to Irishmen.

A shark was recently caught at Carlingford.

Dublin has the only cigar manufactory in all Ireland.

The rumors circulated as to Royal residences being purchased in Ireland are declared to be without foundation.

Norah Donovan died in Middleton Workhouse, Cork, at the age of 103. She had been an inmate for 62 years.

George Boyle, a well known Belfast business man was knocked down by a motor near Donaghadee, and died an hour later.

The death is announced of Colonel Edward O'Brien, head of the family that claims descent from the kings of Ireland.

Probably the oldest woman in the Co. Wicklow died in Rathney recently in the person of Mrs. Murray, whose age was 101.

The Omagh Rural District proposes to erect 114 additional cottages, and to provide 1 acre plots for each cottage at a cost of \$92,850.

A large whale of enormous weight and measuring nearly eighty feet, was recently found near the Island of Rosbeg, off the Donegal coast.

At Newry, John Lavery, a post man, was presented with a certificate from the Royal Humane Society for saving a little girl from drowning.

There is every prospect of the agitation on the Toulagee grass ranch near Roscommon, being renewed and continued during the coming winter.

An outdoor meeting was held in Dublin recently to urge that the Irish language should be made a compulsory subject in the new Irish University.

No trace has been found of the whereabouts of Thady Ouley, son of James Ouley, Kilmurray, who left his father's residence nearly two months ago.

The long-promised "Book of Armagh," which was prepared for the press by the late Bishop Reeves as far back as 1892, is to be issued this autumn.

An industrial convention was held in Monaghan recently with a view to re-establish some of the old industries or create new ones in Monaghan County.

Flags 197 years old, copper collecting ladles and old communion cups and plates, were found under the Presbyterian church, Co. Down, when some repairs were made recently.

The population of Ireland is about half a million less than 80 years ago, and yet the number of old age pensioners in Ireland is 151,000 as against 73,000 in Scotland, or a difference of 114,000.

Lord Iveagh, who is head of the famous firm of Guinness, and said to be the richest man in the United Kingdom, has given away nearly two million pounds for charitable purposes.

A man named O'Callaghan, a farmer, residing at Umrican, County Armagh, cut his wife's throat and afterwards cut his own. The woman succumbed to her wounds, but the man survives.

At Magherafelt, County Down, the Old Age Pension Committee cancelled 150 pensions which had been paid since January 1st to persons under 70 years of age. One of the recipients was not 60.

#### BIGGER OCEAN LINERS.

White Star to Build Boats Nine Hundred Feet Long.

The limit in size in ocean liners is always an interesting subject, and that it has not yet been reached is evidenced by the construction of two new 890-foot steamships, described in Popular Mechanics. These are the Olympic and Titanic of the White Star Line. These huge ships are to be 890 feet in length, 98 feet in beam, and 64 in depth.

From the keel to the roof of the pilot house they will have a height of 150 feet. The freeboard at the bow will be 52 feet, a height that would seem sufficient to overtop the spray of the largest waves.

A sectional view of the new ships show three interesting features—the swimming pool, the squash racquet court, and the gymnasium.

#### THE IRISHMAN ACQUITTED PAT.

An Irishman was arrested for stealing a piece of pork. The evidence was all against him, and everybody present expected that he would be convicted. When the jury came back the verdict was, "Not guilty."

The judge was angry. "You scoundrel," he said, "just as sure as I'm sitting here I know you are guilty, but I can't do otherwise than as the jury says!"

His own lawyer, who had given up the case, said to him: "Tell me, Pat, how you got off scot-free when I know you stole that pork?"

"Well, ye see, sorr," said Pat, "each man in the jury had a payce o' the porruk."