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## NEWS ABOUT NOTED PEOPLE

Three Men Who Can Keep Their Hats On Before the Queen.

Statue of the Author of Tom Brown's School Days.

A Waterloo Veteran Who Knew Bill Adams—Slatin Pasha's Joke.

London, Dec. 15.—Lord Forester, who has accepted the office of mayor of Wenlock this year, possesses an extraordinary privilege, and one that he is hardly likely to avail himself of. By a grant from King Henry VIII., which is now among Lord Forester's family archives, he has the right of wearing his hat in the presence of the Queen. Lord Forester is the only English nobleman who enjoys this privilege, which was conferred on his ancestors as commoners. The Forester peerage was created at a comparatively recent time—July, 1821. Lord Kingsale, the Premier Baron of Ireland, enjoys also the hereditary privilege of wearing his hat in the royal presence—a favor granted to his ancestor, John de Courcy, by King John.

### A MASTER REBUKED.

The master of Trinity, it is said, is another person who has the right to remain covered in the presence of the Queen. A story is told of a certain master who on one occasion found himself in a position to exercise the privilege, and who, in singularly bad taste, availed himself of it. The Queen inquired who it was that wore his head covered in her presence, and on being informed that the master of Trinity did so by right of office, made one of those caustic remarks with which her majesty can so well reprove the slights against royalty. "The master of Trinity may possess the right of wearing his hat in the presence of his sovereign," said the Queen; "but I have yet to learn that a gentleman may do so in the presence of a lady."

### SIR JOHN FOWLER AND GARIBALDI.

Some good stories are going round in connection with the career of Sir John Fowler. One of the best told is that relating how on one occasion Sir John got the Italian Government out of a fix. A serious difference of opinion had arisen between that government and Garibaldi regarding the mode of dealing with the Tiber to prevent the damage from floods. Sir John was telegraphed for and told by the then prime minister, M. Minghetti, that Garibaldi's position was one of indifference, and it would be dangerous to quarrel with him. When Sir John went to see Garibaldi, the latter said: "I am a pessimist; the Tiber is a danger to Rome; therefore, I say, remove the Tiber. This was rather startling; but Sir

John explained that, being an engineer, he could only give an opinion on facts, and must first get at the cost and consequences of removing the Tiber, as Garibaldi had proposed, from Rome to near Tivoli. Garibaldi assented, and engineers were obtained and surveys made. Later Sir John again called upon Garibaldi to state the result of his investigations, which was that the suggested work would cost about nine millions sterling, and an equal amount for compensation. Garibaldi at once frankly admitted the impracticability of the scheme, and Minghetti and the Italian Government were very grateful to Sir John for relieving them from a position of considerable embarrassment.

### ONE ON BIRRELL.

At the recent Fife dinner, Mr. Augustine Birrell "birelled" delightfully. He told the story of a Scottish member for an English constituency, who met him in the lobby soon after the general election and said: "I want you to tell me something that puzzles me sorely. How is it that you have been returned by many thousands for West Fife, while in East Fife a really clever man like Mr. Asquith has only scraped in by a bare majority?" Mr. Birrell said he had no difficulty in explaining the matter to the tactful Scotchman, "but what I told him it is not necessary for me to repeat."

### ELVIS S. NMOH KOL.

Mr. Thomas Brock, R. A., has now finished his life-sized statue of the late Judge Thomas Hughes beloved of boys as the author of "Tom Brown's School Days." The unveiling of the statue, which is to be erected at Rugby, by old Rugbians, and others, will take place as early as possible next year after a suitable site has been selected. The remainder of the money subscribed—between £200 and £300—will be handed over, in accordance with the decision at the preliminary meeting which was held in the Jerusalem Chamber, Westminster, under the chairmanship of the dean, to the Boys' Clubs which have been established in London and Birmingham in connection with the Rugby School Mission.

### WATERLOO VETERANS.

Strange as it may seem, there are still a few Waterloo veterans left, if we are to believe the Colonial Press. There is one in the Liverpool Beethoven Asylum, near Sydney, and an enterprising Sydney reporter went up to interview him the other day. "So you were in the Battle of Waterloo?" queried the reporter. "Yes," said the old man. "I remember it as if it was yesterday." "Did you know Bill Adams, who got the V.C. there?" asked the pressman. "I should think I did," replied the veteran, "he was serving in the same company as me."

### SLATIN PASHA.

The announcement that Slatin Pasha is henceforth to be Sir Rudolph Slatin has given universal satisfaction, for the Austrian officer is a favorite in many quarters. Slatin Pasha is an exceedingly handsome man—erect, medium height, thick-set, and as hard as nails. Years ago, during a skirmish, he had the misfortune to have one of his fingers disabled by a bullet, where-

upon, rather than bother about having it seen to and properly set, he promptly placed it on the nearest available rock and hacked it off with his sword. The reason he afterwards gave was that "it was in the way, and wobbled."

He speaks English well, is very witty in his remarks, and is a splendid company. Slatin is a good talker, and, consequently, a very great favorite amongst the gentler sex. It was doubtless this popularity that caused a lady sitting beside him at dinner a year or two ago to ask if there was any truth in the rumor that he was thinking of getting married. He set the whole table in a roar by immediately replying: "Married? What, me? Oh, no! I had already been prisoner fourteen years—never a more!"

### ROSE FROM THE RANKS.

Colonel Hector MacDonald, C.B., D.S.O., who has just been appointed A.D.C. to the Queen, is generally thought to be the first officer thus honored who has risen from the ranks. This, however, is not really the case, for 50 years ago a similar distinction was achieved by Col. Charles Cureton, C.B. It was when serving as a sergeant with Wellington, in Spain, that this officer's first commission was granted him. Some twenty years later he found himself in India. Here his gallantry during the Sutlej campaign was specially rewarded by the bestowal upon him of an A.D.C.-ship to her Majesty. He did not, however, live long to enjoy the honor, for shortly afterwards he fell in action at Ramnagur.

### A HERO OF CRETE.

While the heroes of Omdurman are coming in for reward and decoration in recognition of their gallantry at the memorable action, the men who did the dirty work of Crete during the recent impasse have not been forgotten. Last week the decoration of Admiral Noel was recorded, and now it is pleasant to see that the Queen has been pleased to raise Colonel Sir Herbert C. Chermiside to the rank of major-general, as a reward for his eminent services as British commissioner in Crete. Sir H. C. Chermiside is a royal engineer, entering that corps in 1870. During his 25 years of service he has held many important Eastern appointments. He has twice acted as military attaché at Constantinople, and while holding that position served with the Turkish troops during the war with Russia, for which he was decorated by the sultan with a medal. He took part in the Egyptian Expedition against Arabi Pasha, and in 1894 was present in the Sudan operations. He then served for a period with the Egyptian army, was promoted brevet lieutenant-colonel for his services at Suakin in 1895, and became colonel for his services in command of the Frontier Field Force, at Sarra, two years later. On the occasion of the international occupation of Crete he was appointed to command the British troops, and the ability which he constantly displayed in upholding our rights in that island brought him the reward of a K.C.M.G. in the early part of last year.

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## THREE GREAT ENGLISHMEN

A Famous Story Concerning Gladstone, Browning and Disraeli.

Browning's Indignation at Disraeli Ex-cites Gladstone's Mirth—The G. O. M.'s Generosity.

More light has just been given to the famous encounter between Browning, Disraeli and Gladstone. The story first saw the light of print through Geo. D. Russell; then it was corrected and expanded by Mr. Lionel Tollemache, whose authority was an "informant," now comes Canon McColl, who declares that he speaks as an eye-witness, and as he recites it, as an "ear witness," too. His version has an antecedent probability in making out Browning to be the rather obtuse and intolerant man instead of Gladstone. The canon publishes his account of the matter in the Observer:

At one of Mr. Gladstone's breakfast parties in Harley street, in 1873, I chanced to be one of the guests. I sat between Browning and White, and right opposite to me was Mr. Gladstone. Some one happening to refer to the then music-hall song, "We won't want to fight," etc., Browning exclaimed, "I'm dead sick of that doggerel. Besides, I have composed a much better version of my own." Asked what it was, he recited three verses, of which only the first has stuck to my memory. Here it is:

"I don't want to fight;  
But, by Jingo, if I do,  
The man whose head I'd like to punch  
Is Beaconsfield, the Jew."

I believe the verses were impromptu. Having finished his verses, he declared emphatically that he regarded Lord Beaconsfield as "the greatest liar living," and then proceeded to tell the following story by way of illustration: "Two years ago," said Browning, "I was at the Academy dinner. Mr. Disraeli made the speech of the evening, and his theme was the extraordinary display of the imaginative faculty in the pictures of the year. After dinner he came up to me and said, 'How do you do, Mr. Browning?' I was taken aback, for we had never been introduced, and I had never spoken to him. So I replied: 'Very well, thank you, Mr. Disraeli; but I think you mistake me for somebody else.' 'Oh, no,' said he, 'it is impossible to mistake Mr. Browning.' What do you think of the pictures of this year's exhibition? I was so taken aback by his addressing me at all that, like a fool, instead of giving my opinion, I asked, 'What do you think of them, Mr. Disraeli?' forgetting that it was only half an hour before that I heard him give his opinion in his speech, stroking his chin, he replied,

"Well, Mr. Browning, if I had to make any special criticism it would be to say how woefully lacking the pictures of this year are in the imaginative faculty." I stood dumb and rooted to the spot. It was only half an hour before that I heard this man say that what particularly struck him in the pictures was the extraordinary display of the imaginative faculty. I repeat—with tremendous energy—"he is the greatest liar living."

Mr. Gladstone laughed, I believe, quite as much at Browning's vehement indignation as at the story . . . and then afforded the following vindication of Beaconsfield:

"I think you take Lord Beaconsfield too seriously, Mr. Browning. I have often known him to make false statements; but false statements are not necessarily lies. To begin with, you must remember that Lord Beaconsfield is, in the whole cast of his mind as well as by descent, an Oriental, and exhibits in his own person an extraordinary display of the imaginative faculty. I sometimes debate with myself whether he ever had in his mind a clear line of demarcation between truth and falsehood; but if he had, I am sure that for years past his mind has been in a state of baptismal innocence with regard to the difference. Men tell lies to serve a purpose; but I have known Lord Beaconsfield make false statements which could be of no manner of use to him, but rather the contrary."

Canon McColl goes on to say that Mr. Gladstone had a marked tendency to defend his political opponents when they seemed to him to be unfairly attacked. He adds:

"I once wrote an anonymous appreciation of Lord Beaconsfield which interested Mr. Gladstone. He asked me if I knew who wrote it. 'When I told him, he said: 'I think you are quite fair to him except on one point. You think him a man of political animosities.' I assented. 'I believe you are quite wrong,' he said. 'I have sat opposite him for a good many years, and my belief is that he has no political animosities. No doubt he would have scrupled at few things in order to trample upon me while I stood in his way as leader of the Liberal party. But now that I am no longer leader I don't believe that Lord Beaconsfield feels the slightest animosity towards me. And there are three things for which I shall always admire him—his devotion to his wife, his defense of his race, and his splendid parliamentary pluck.'"

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## QUESTIONS ANSWERED

SAVINGS BANK.—Can one person open a savings bank account for another (say a brother for a sister) in the name of that other person, and without his or her knowledge? Ans.—Yes.

HURONDALE.—I engaged a professional nurse. No mention was made that I should do her washing and ironing. I did it at her request. Can I collect pay? Ans.—Not upon the facts stated.

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