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Chatham and Dresden.

NOBLE GOTHIC PILE. as many high, of dingy and faded aspect. Opposite us is Mr. Speaker. Before him sit the three clerks of the

SIR CHARLES BARRY'S CREATION THAT COST \$15,000,000.

Glimpse of the Heart of the Mether of of Commons-How It Opens, Lives and Works-Some Things Strange to Colonials and Foreigners-Glamer of the

Sir Charles Barry's noble Gothic pile, pitched between the venerable Abbey of Westminster and the classic Thames, and enshrining the ancient Westminster Hall, stands forth an eloquent witness to the antiquity and virility of the English Parliamentary system. Now at least 650 years old, the mother of Parliaments has survived the wreck of centuries and the crash of dynasties. By a proand the crash of dynasties. By a pro-cess of continuous development it has adapted itself to every vicissitude of changeful time. It has suffered tem-porary eclipse at the hands of des-potic sovereigns and the obloquy that followed its own attempt at autocratic Government. It has wif-nessed the savgility of the sycophant nessed the servility of the sycophant the noble courage of the patriot. Time was when every member had his price-to-day the House of Commons is probably freer from political corresponding to the control of the control of the corresponding to the political corresponding to the control of the corresponding to the political corresponding to the corresponding to t ruption than any other popular as-sembly in the world.

influence and prejudice.

Gladstone's Emphasis. In front of the clerk's table is the

table of the House, set lengthwise, littered with books and papers. There is a writing desk on either side, regarding the contents of which there

garding the contents of which there are legends and surmises believed to have a more substantial foundation than the usual somewhat malicious gossip. Be that as it may, these desks are of great value to the oratorical tub-thumpers on the front benches. They bear manifest tribute to Mr. Gladstone's proclivities in that way by the numerous dents made by the ring which adorned that distinguished man's little imager. Inseremarkable emphasis in driving home his points would indeed have earned

his points would indeed have earned for him the admiration of the old

his points would indeed have earned for him the admiration of the old Scotswoman whose greatest compliment to the efficiency of her minister was that he had "knockit twa pupits to pieces, and, dung the guts oot o' three Bibles." Well indeed might Mr. Disraeli congratulate himself, as he publicly did, that so substantial a defence as the table of the House stood between him and his redoubtable antagonist.

reduced a recalcitrant member to silence was that he should forthwith
be named. A too curious man asked
Mr. Speaker Denison what would occur if he were to be named. The
Speaker looked at him and said,
'The Lord only knows,' a remark
which left the result as vaguely terrible as before. It is the only answer possible to any enquiry about
the properties of the mace, which,
when the House is in committee, is
tucked away under the table, to reappear on the return of the Speaker
to the chair.

The Bar of the House, From the table to the door runs a strip of cocoanut matting, separat-ing two tiers of longitudinal bench-es, covered with faded green leather.

The benches on the right of the Speaker are occupied by the supporters of the Government or the day—those on the left by the Opposition. The seats below the gangway, i.e., further from the Speaker, are supposed to be the resort of the in-

dependent or quasi-independent members, although as matter of fact, a truly independent member or mug-

rump is a rare bird and anather

which otherwise would have been buried in probably deserved oblivion. On each side run galleries, two benches deep, reserved for members, and which are technically within the House Right above the Speaker is the Press Gallery, and behind and above the papersteiners is the rece

the Press Gallery, and behind and above the paperstainers is the cage or Ladies' Gallery, carefully enclosed by a gilded grating. It provides ac-commodation for some three dozen ladies. During Mr. Gladstone's Par-

ladies. During Mr. Gladstone's Par-liamentary career one corner of it was sacred to Mrs. Gladstone, who was unfailing in her attendance and punctilious in adorning that careless dresser with a buttonhole on the nights of special importance. A boutoniere in the G.O.M.'s lapel was a sure sign that a great speech was in hand

Members Cheek by Jowl. What first strikes a visitor from Canada, accustomed to the magnifi

Glamor of the Place.

The centre of gravity of the British Parliamentary system is admittedly now to be found in the House of Commons. In that respect it is sui generis. Although it has been the prototype of many popular elective bodies, none are exactly like it. All have departed more or less from it. This is not surprising. Institutions cannot be transplanted. The curious customs, the quaint ceremonies. the odd relics of a bygone time, the glamor of a hoary tradition cannot survive a different atmosphere. When they become more anachronisms, superficial imitations without the spirit and associations which can alone render them not merely tolerable, but valuable, they are better left alone. Thus it follows that foreign and colonial visitors look with amazement lonial visitors look with amazement at many of the usages and practices at many of the usages and practices of the House of Commons. Transient impressions often lead to hasty judgments, but they are not alone in this. Many an iconoclast in the mother land has thundered against the absurdities and punctilies of the House of Commons—till he got inside himself. Then the glamor of the place seizes him. He geome subsides place seizes him. He soon subsides into acquiescence and ends by becoming the ardent defender of what he so fervently condemned, and the most merciless castigator of the tenderfoot who infringes the unwritten rules of the House. In fact, it is in the very air members breathe. All these unwritten traditionary practices once mastered become the rertificate of written traditionary practices once mastered become the retrificate of full initiation. They are the secret symbols that separate the member of Parliament from the ruck of mankind and "The House" becomes the synonym for "My House."

Hall Mark of the House. Reputations in public life never become fixed till they receive the hall mark of the House of Comn cess on the platform avails little unless followed by achievement on the floor of Parliament. And the House of Commons is in many ways the most truly democratic assembly in the world. Rank, education, social no the world. Hank, education, social position, personal appearance, elocutionary gifts, unaccompanied by more solid qualities, weigh little with an audience great men have declared to be at once the fairest and most critical that gan be faced. What the Flouse requires to win its approval is that the speaker really has something to say. If he has the Most thing to say. If he has the House will listen, but if he has nothing but empty words, nothing can save him from speedy extinction. Many of the men who have held the listening Senate at command, have described their nervous dread on first rising— to ad-dress the House of Commons. Even after years of apprenticeship some have confessed they never rose to their feet without a tremor. So strong and searching is the effect of the traditions and associations that cluster round the plain comfortless chamber where sit His Majesty's

faithful Commons. faithful Commons.

A Quaint Frecessien.

Let us imagine ourselves loitering in the inner lobby of Sir Charles Barry's \$15,000,000 creation, some afternoon just as Big Ben in his deep bass notes tells the hour. Ere the echoes have died away a stentorian roar proclaims "Mr. Speaker," and the roar is repeated down the corridors in ever receding tones. Again the terrific roar, "Hats off, strangers," and there looms into view a figure looking for all the world as if it had stepped down from one of the canvases of Reynolds or Gainsborough. Ruffles, frills, knee breeches, silk stockings, sword and twinkling buttons and buckles; on its shoulder, a buge gilded mace, two centuries and a half old, and the lineal successor of the article which vanished at Oliver Cromwell's contemptuous command, "Take away that bauble." It is the sergeant-at-arms. Captain Henry David Erskine, sometime of the Scots Guards. Then floats into view the Right Hon. William Court Gully, Speaker of the House, and the first Commoner in the land, also in full court dress, crowned with a full bottomed wig and clad in a black A Quaint Procession. Gully, Speaker of the House, and the first Commoner in the land, also in full court dress, crowned with a full bottomed wig and clad in a black robe, so preposterously long as to require the services of a skilled trainbearer. Immediately after him appears Mr. Speaker's chaplain, gowned, banded and hatted, and in rear Mr. Speaker's secretary, in the garments of the common or garden mormal. The little procession residents

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Druggists.

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What first strikes a visitor from Canada, accustomed to the magnificent provision made for the Federal and Provincial Legislatures, is the absolute dearth of these in the British Lower House. There are no desks, no chairs, no electric tells and in ocuspidors. Hon, members sit cheek by jowl and on great occasions wedged and packed together like the proverbial herrings in a barrel. There is not even room on the floor of the House for the representatives of the people—they overflow into the cross benches and upstairs to the side galleries. Inconvenient and archaic as it all seems, it is a minoot question whether it is not real-attly an advantage in the conduct of convisiness. There is nothing of the the tiff formality inseparable from the apparatus of desks, tribunes and the ike. There is a greater electrical impathy and force generated. The Glouse is more readily responsive to forche ebb and flow of debate. It all helps Baio foster and develop that eminently applications.

social feeling which is one of the most distinctive marks of the Bri-tish House of Commons. It has been Before him sit the three clerks of the House, arrayed in wig and gown, whose business it is to minute the proceedings and assist the Speaker. Only at rare intervals does it fall to the lot of the principal clerk to emerge into prominence. But when a new Parliament meets it becomes his duty to rise and, without uttering a sound to reside the second to reside the se called the best club in London. if not quite as clubable in these ultra democratic days, it retains enough of the temperament, manners and habits which render it still so fascinating to all who come under its small. duty to rise and, without uttering a sound, to point his forelinger at the leader of the House, who, forthwith rises and proceeds to propose an honorable member for the Speakership. It is the unwritten rule now so well settled as to be invariable, to renominate the occupant of the office in the previous Parliament. This practice was followed by the Conservative Government that succeeded Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Administration, although Mr. Gully's election had been carried by only a small majority on a party vote. It is part of the fine deference paid by Parliament to the chair and the determination to render Mr. Spealer as far as possible independent of party influence and prejudice.

At the conclusion of business the old cry still resounds through the corridors, "Who goes home?" reminiscent of the time when it was dangerous to walk London's streets in the small hours unaccompanied. Then the opposing whips, always the best of friends, hold a confidential confabulation and compare notes. Seldom, indeed, does personal animosity enter into the political life of the House of Commons in these days. The finest feature of the House is the anxious care with which all parties seek to conserve its tradiparties seek to conserve its tradi-tions and to maintain all that mak-es for the firm and fair conduct of debate. They have been greatly aid-ed in this by a succession of Speak-ers conspicuous for strength of character, clearness of judgment and an impartiality unquestionable and unquestioned. Walle this temper ex-ists the House of Coursons will ists the House of Commons will reed party system and in this respect a model for popular assemblies throughout the world.

Really Antique. An excellent plaster of paris cast may be seen in one of the Egyptian galleries of the British museum of the famous sycamore statuette known as the "Sheikh-el-Beled," or "Village Sheikh." The original dates from 3900 B. C. and is still in perfect condition, although it is the oldest known speci men of wood carving. It represents an overseer of the workmen engaged in building the pyramids close to Sakka rao, where it was discovered.

Rilling Sharks by Electricity. In the British navy the engineers have a curious way of killing sharks. House stood between him and his redoubtable antagonist.
On the table rests the mace, of which every honorable member stands i much in awe. If by any chance that weapon was elsewhere while Mr. Speaker is in the chair, it is impossible to say what would happen to the fabric of the State. Before the revision of the rules, the threat that reduced a recalcitrant member to silence was that he should forthwith They seal up a dynamite cartridge is an empty can and put the can inside a lump of pork. The pork is thrown overboard on a wire which has been connected with an electric battery. When the shark takes the bait, the engineer presses a button, which explodes the cartridge and kills the fish,

Willing to Waive That. "Miss Angeline," began the poor but proud young man, "if I were in a posttion to ask you to be my wife"—
"Good gracious, Mr. Throgson!" she
exclaimed. "In a position? The idea! Do you think I would want you to get down on your knees?"-Exchange.

When a man is determined to rise in the world, it is better not to interfere with him too much. If his purpose is right, he will be a dangerous wrestler.

The highest shot tower in the world is in Villach, Austria. Bullets from the upper level fall 249 feet.

es, covered with faded green leather. Near the swinging glass door a broad dark piece of leather is sewn into the matting. It marks the Bar of the House, which on occasion is further made visible by drawing a thin brass rod across the passage. From each side of this passage rise five tiers of benches at a slope of about 30 degrees. Each set of tiers is bissected by a narrow staircase at right angles to the passage and known as the gangway, at the end of which, under ALMOST AFRAID TO GO TO SLEEP FOR FEAR SHE WOULD NOT by a narrow staircase at right angles to the passage and known as the gangway, at the end of which, under the galleries, are the cross benches. The benches on the right of the WAKE UP.

FLUTTERING OF THE HEART. SHORTNESS OF BREATH.

FAINT AND DIZZY SPELLS.

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wump is a rare bird and anathema to the party whips. Opposite the Speaker is a public gallery with the famous clock set in the front that figured so largely in the days when Mr. Biggar of raucous fame reduced obstruction to a fine art and made members exhaustively acquainted with the coatents of blue books which otherwise would have been She has been restored to perfect health.

She writes: "About seven months ago I was badly run down in health and became very weak. I was troubled with fluttering of the heart and shortness of breath. When lying down at night I was almost afraid to go to sleep for fear I would never wake up. When I arose in the morning I would feel a little better, but as soon as I started to work my heart would start fluttering, my head would become dizzy, faint weak spells would come over me and it seemed as if black objects were floating before my eyes. I was growing worse every day until I got a box.of Miburn's Heart and Nerve Fills. When the box was half gone I could feel that they had done me good and by the time it was finished I was in excellent health and would advise all sufferers from heart and nerve troubles to try them."

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Minard's Liniment Relieves Neu-Water History

LINK WITH THE PAST Border Bridge to Scotland Is Creating

Once again the condition of the Border bridge, which crosses the Tweed at Berwick and has the dis-tinction of joining English to Scottinction of joining English to Scot-tish soil, is creating some concern. Berwick Town Council has resolved Berwick Town Council has resolved upon temporary repairs until a report on the structure can be obtained from a competent bridge engineer. At last the historic structure would seem to be doomed; for these many years it has only had its sentimental claim of antiquity to recommend it. Commenced in 1611, it took thirteen years of great toil to build. Previous to that two bridges had been swept away, each in a memorable storm. In 1610 the civic rulers of the Border town resolved to build a bridge which should be cap-



BERWICE BRIDGE.

able of resisting the fiercest flood. King James I. had a finger in the new enterprise, which, started the year following, was put to a very severe test quite at the outset. The lime was scarcely dry on the foundation when there came a flood no living man had seen the like of, and a great part of the work was washed away. The masons set to work great part of the work was washed away. The masons set to work again, the King granted £3,000 more, and at last, in 1624, it was completed. The bridge consisted of 15 arches and measured in length 1,-164 feet, and it is curious to note that one of the pillars divided Berwick from the county palatine of hulbam. The bridge has placed in Dutham. The bridge has played its part in Border history for over 270 years. It has rung to the march of rebels and royalists, and pirates and attle lifters have used it often if not well. The Crown, not generous as a rule in such matters, has helped the bridge substantially by an annual grant in its sleepy old age.

Life in Met Water.

The highest temperature at which a living organism can exist is prob-ably 89 degress centigrade, or 103 degrees Fahrenheit. This is the temperature of hot springs, in which si-mentous micro-organisms have been found by Professor #. A. Setchell. He searched carefully for life in the geysers of Sonoma County, California, which are still hotter, but was unsuccessful. The limits of life in water containing silica are considerable learners and there are learners. ably lower and they are lower still in water containing lime. No organ-isms were found in acid waters, and all the strictly thermal organisms are of very low grade. The cell struc-ture is peculiar, and the protoplasm must be different from the ordinary kind, for that, would be coagulated by the heat. The exact nature of this difference, however, is yet undiscovered.

Magersfentein Memorial in Glasgew. A replica of the monument at Magersfontein to the memory of the Highlanders who fell in South Africa has been erected in the Winter Gardens of the People on Glasgow Green. The memorial is a granite



A MAGERSFONTEIN MEMORIAL. cross, with Celtic ornamentation eross, with Cettle ornality and stands about 20 feet in height.
The inscription on it reads. "Erretand stands about 20 feet in height. The inscription on it reads. "Errected by Scots the world over in memory of the officers and men of the Highland Regiments who fell at Magersfontein, 11th Dec., 1899. Scotland is poorer in men, but richer in heroes."

"Successfal" People.

Professor Dexter, of the University of Illinois, has compiled a curious volume of statistics relating to "successful" people, and containing 8,602 names. It is shown that musicians gain success at the earliest age; the scientists at an early age, the actor and the author next; the inventors gain their place slowly, no one below the age of forty being included in the book. Women reach success in all callings, except, in "Successful" People cluded in the book. Women reach success in all callings, except in music and on the stage, later than their male competitors. It has before been noted that musical gifts tend to develop more quickly than almost any other. As for the business men, it is interesting to learn that 84 per cent. of the successful men, of business did not enter college, while 12 per cent. completed it. Of the financiers 18 per cent, are college graduates.

Germany's Colonial Empire. Germany's Celonial Empire.

Germany's foreign protectorates are "sphere of influence," rather than colonies in the ordinarily accepted sense of the term. Her extension of Empire beyond the bounds of Europe began in 1884, and now includes over 1,000,000 square miles of territory with an estimated population of 14,-700,000, most of these being in Africa.

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