

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

LONDON, June 25th, 1888.—At the 85th half yearly meeting of the P. & O. Steam Navigation Company, the chairman announced that their new contract required the transit of the mail from London to Bombay and Aden in 32 days, but the British mail had effected the passage in 25 days, a week under contract time. A number of cargo vessels are also to be constructed to meet the great development in the vast manufacturing trade of India, and the export thence to China and Japan. The chairman said: "Bombay is at the present moment completely eclipsing Manchester in manufacturing cotton, and more especially cotton yarn for the markets in China and Japan. Owing to their appreciation of gold and the cheapness of wages in India, through its silver currency, the Bombay manufacturer is able now to undersell the Manchester manufacturer in the China markets, and in that particular description of goods more especially. I imagine not many of our shipowners understand the full bearing and significance of the depreciation of silver upon our accounts. I will, however, illustrate the effect of it very simply by pointing to this fact—that if a gentleman comes to this office and takes a return ticket to India and back, he pays £90; whereas, if he goes to our office in Bombay or Calcutta, and takes a return ticket in a similar manner, he pays 900 rupees, and at the present moment the difference is as between £57 and £90."

A policeman who is unacquainted with the many art of self-defence is certainly at a disadvantage when he is called upon to tackle one of "the fanny"—either to turn him out of a public-house or to run him into a police station; and Alderman Symonds, of Hull, was doubtless right in deeming that it was advisable that a stock of boxing gloves should be kept in hand, so that our policeman may occupy their spare time in giving themselves the requisite training for a "bellow" or a "cross buttock," and be able to return the compliment when they are assailed without gloves about the "daylight," "peepers," "claret-jug," "snuff box," "kisser," "whistle," "candle," "knob," "later trip," "cork," "bread basket" or "knowledge box." During recent years there has been a revival of interest in matters pertaining to the prize ring, and glove fights (with the barest apology for gloves on), which are prize fights in reality, are quite common. Policemen who know how to handle their "dukes" will, therefore, find such knowledge of great advantage.

Club extension goes on in London, notwithstanding all the recent additions. The latest example is the Metropolitan, which, besides admitting ladies, is to be used as a musical club. Some idea of the extent of club life may be formed from the membership of the National Conservative Club. The Old Wanderers, as the members of this club are known, numbers 2,300, which number is to be increased to 4,000.

It is stated in diplomatic circles that Constantine, and not Rome, is the real object of Lord Dufferin's past Indian career. He will remain at the Holy City but a few months, and will then relieve Sir W. White, Lord Dufferin's Constantine, and he is certainly the right man to have as ambassador in that hotbed of European trouble.

Mr. Henry Irving intends that his revival of "Macbeth" shall be something altogether unprecedentedly novel and impressive. Locke's music, incidental to the witches scene, is not good enough for "our only actor," who has given Sir Arthur Sullivan a commission to write the music, which that eminent composer has accepted.

The most novel strike on this side of the water for many a year is that of some operatives in Huddersfield. They had been given a half holiday, and in order to make it more pleasant for them the employers gave them a beef set on the tables were cold. Wherefore the operatives struck. They wanted hot roast beef or none at all.

There is no truth in the statement that Nawab Zafarullah Dowlah, or any other Indian chief, is coming to this country to teach the Queen Hindustani.

The Postmaster-General has under consideration a new kind of closed postal card which will have the privacy of a letter, and be sold at something less than the price of a penny stamp. It is thought they will shortly be issued.

The Board of Guardians of Hull were much disturbed at a recent meeting when the master of the Poorhouse reported that two tramps had been taken before a local magistrate for tearing up their clothes. One had been discharged, and the other committed for seven days. Some strong remarks were made with respect to the discharge of the man in the first case, one guardian remarking that the news would soon spread that tramps at Driffield could tear their clothes with impunity, and they would be besieged with more. Another guardian thought the fellows who tore up their clothes ought to be put in a sack; whilst a third was of opinion that on conviction the tramps ought to forfeit the new suits, which, it transpired, cost the guardians about 18s.

A new fad here has got hold of our fashionable yachtmen, that is trawling for fish. Lord Alfred Paget, who, like Sir Charles Coldstream, has tried every pleasure and is threatened with the same discovery there, has taken to trawling off the mouth of the Thames. In one day he brought up one hundred pairs of soles and nearly a quarter of a ton of other fish; all which was distributed pro rata and quality, between the Queen, the Prince of Wales and the London hospital. There is nothing to be said against the method of distribution, but if the members of the Thames Yacht Club are to extend their trawling, the legitimate pisciculturists of this industry should have something to say about it.

Rumors accumulate on the top of rumors. Here we are now faced by a circumstantial story that when Lord Esher retires he will be succeeded on the bench by Mr. Henry Mathews, and that the Queen would find a new Secretary of State in Sir John Gorst. Yes, but it was Sir Richard Webster who was to "trek" leaving the House to mourn the loss of its Attorney-General. As Mr. Mathews and Sir Richard Webster cannot both be Master of Rolls, at least not together, it will be necessary for Lord Salisbury to leave the gift to the old boyish expedient of "Now, who speaks first?"

According to the *World*, Mr. Arthur Balfour has succeeded in persuading Lord Salisbury to allow him to appoint his private secretary, Mr. Hayes Fisher, to the post of under secretary for Ireland in succession to Col. Knox-Harman.

Mr. Sinclair, the victor in the recent contested election at Ayr, who received an ovation from the Gladstonian and Parnellite members of the House of Commons on the occasion of his taking his seat, comes to Parliament with very little of the pastor in his appearance. He has eschewed the raiment of the Muses, and now resembles a well-to-do farmer dressed for the Saturday meeting of the Board of Guardians. He is very near sighted.

The precise significance of the amendment which Mr. John Morley introduced in carrying against the government, is that Quarter ses-

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sons shall hereafter cease to have power to appoint, control and displace chief constables. This amendment does not set against the authority which shall possess this power, but the vote is nevertheless regarded as the thin edge of the wedge, which is intended, if it can be got home, to give the ratepayers control of the police. The incident, however, is interesting rather than binding, as the government can, of course, supply the omission and carry it. The libel suit brought by Jockey Wood, which was decided in his favor for nominal damages the other day, excited a great deal of interest. All the papers devoted much space to it; the scene in the court was described in detail; the precise moment at which the Lord Chief Justice took his seat upon the bench being carefully chronicled. The Duchess of Montrose, with an imposing presence filled one corner of the bench, and, as she is told, in the middle of Sir Henry James' opening speech. But the cause involved in this instance of the crime of being late must be shared equally with Her Grace by Mr. Lambton, who came in at the same time. The Duke of Beaufort exchanged notes with General Williams, the Earl of March ruled abdications complacently with my Lord Cardigan; and the general Sir John Astley, who had vainly cast about for a seat, was kindly taken in hand by a brother turfite and thrust into the place reserved for counsel, no less a person than the leader of the Bar.

An address read some years ago by Sir Charles Dilke on Local Government among different nations, and since corrected by the author, is to appear in the current number of the *County Government Review*. The paper taps the systems in vogue in France, Russia, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Italy, Austria and thrifty Holland.

The blessed privileges one enjoyed by the writers of comic or satirical copy in the House of Commons are clearly at an end. Here is the *Pall Mall* upon its knees in apologetic humility to Dr. Tanner, for having allowed some test by its parliamentary spectator to appear concerning the hon. member for Mid Cork, and it is quite right Dr. Tanner should seek redress for this kind of offence, but only think of the changed times which the getting of that redress means. I remember when it was possible to libel Mr. Bradlaugh or any Irish member with impunity. Now we have Mr. Bradlaugh successfully prosecuting his critics, Mr. William O'Brien laying damages against half a dozen journals at a time, and Dr. Tanner bringing down a leading London evening newspaper to cry "pescavi." It may become even dangerous to note the political adventures of Mr. Biggar.

A FINE OLD IRISH LANDLORD.

In the course of his investigation of the workings of the Plan of Campaign on various estates in the South and West of Ireland, the special commissioner of the Dublin Freeman has brought to light incidents of landlord caprice and cruelty that, even to men hardened to the iniquities of landlordism, will appear incredible.

We shall not touch here on the history of the Clancarrige estate, brought into such prominence last fall by the death of young Lynton, and where, although the Land Courts have been open to the tenants, the agent has kept them out by threats of dilapidation and ruin. We will also pass over the Rensbary and Lewis estates, where the troubles are still unsettled, and where there is, after all, only the rather commonplace record of clearances and evictions, followed by deaths from exposure, etc.

But the history of the Ormsby estate, in County Mayo, invites attention from the novelty and ingenuity of the methods devised by the noble landlord for extorting money from his wretched serfs. To begin with, nearly every one of the six townlands included in his possessions consists of mountain slopes, reclaimed by the tenants without the slightest assistance from him. On these the rents range all the way from 35 to 65 per cent. In excess of the Government valuation. Moreover, the tenants pay the entire taxes on the estate.

These enormous rack-rents, his total exemption from taxes, and from expenditure for repairs or improvements, and his premier position being provided for by the "distress work," the tenants do not satisfy the capacity of Landlord Ormsby. He further replenishes his treasury by a system of fines. The basis on which these are levied can best be understood by a few examples.

It was proved in open court at the Swinford Quarter Sessions that John Jennings, of Lragan, was fined £3 for taking a wife without Mr. Ormsby's sanction. Another man was fined 2s. 6d. for staying home from duty work to bury his child. Michael Conlon was fined £2 for life for not working when his hand was sore, and on another occasion 7s. 6d. for not making a drain on his premises while he was mowing for the landlord. A little girl named Shearona was fined 5s. for looking through a fence on the roadside on her mother's land at a travelling show. Anne Nolan, a servant, was fined 5s. for visiting her sick mother. The same girl was fined 7s. 6d. because she did not give enough milk in winter. In summer Ormsby himself ministered the milk and morning for three years. This virtuous landlord actually fined a tenant whom he caught in the act of kissing the girl he was engaged to.

He had an effective method of improving his estate by moving a thrifty tenant—without compensation of course—from the bog or rock he had reclaimed to another in need of reclamation. He moved one man, Thomas Cavanagh, three times; and when the unfortunate man protested against a fourth change, turned him out on the roadside without a cent. Cavanagh and his wife died in the poor-house. Twenty-six tenants were evicted at one swoop simply because the demesne might be enlarged.

The parish priest, Father O'Hara, has been trying to effect a reduction in the rents of his wretched people. He proposed arbitration to the landlord, and went so far as to leave the choice of any two honest men to act in that capacity to Ormsby himself. The proposal was contemptuously rejected. Will any one contend that the Ormsby tenants are in conscience obliged to submit to this system of terrorism and extortion? Boston Pilot.

RESURRECTING THE BLUE LAWS.

A DISGUSTED ORATOR TALKS. PITTSBURGH, July 4.—At the hearing of John Martin yesterday on a charge of selling milk as a beverage on Sunday, Francis Murphy, the temperance orator, said "I am on the subject of selling soft drinks on Sunday. Here are some things he said:—

The law and order people should make arrangements to furnish people with milk, lemonade and other harmless drinks on Sunday. It is an outrage, and no city in the United States, excepting Pittsburg, would stand it. They are making quite a profitable thing out of these prohibitions.

It is time for us to quit talking temperance and start drinking liquor. They should resurrect that other blue law which forbids a man kissing his wife on the Sabbath, and then we would have to do as the men did when it was enforced—that is, go and kiss our neighbor's wife.

Why, it is worse than Salisbury's persecutions in Ireland. There are always some intemperate temperance people who are working to injure the cause of temperance.

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

London Society Thrown Into a Season of Mourning—Englishmen at Monte Carlo—Lynton's Oriental Reception—Paris—A New Libel Machine.

LONDON, July 8.—Lord Douglas intends to fight the action which Miss Philip Broughton, the actress, is bringing against him for breach of promise of marriage. The damages are laid at £5,000, just half of the amount at which Miss Broughton appraised the loss of a Count.

For the second time in one season the Court and society have been thrown into a season of mourning. This is the latest in a series of deaths of the London season. All the functions and celebrations usual during the ensuing three weeks will necessarily be put off—state balls, state concerts and garden parties. Black will be the only weed, and a reproachful tolerance of gaiety alone will soften the capabilities of official mourning. The effect of this sudden collapse of the London season. All the functions and celebrations usual during the ensuing three weeks will necessarily be put off—state balls, state concerts and garden parties. Black will be the only weed, and a reproachful tolerance of gaiety alone will soften the capabilities of official mourning.

The new wing at Balmoral, which is a most effective addition to the Castle, has not yet been completed, and there is still a lot of decorative work to finish. It is to be occupied during the autumn season of the Prince and Princess of Wales and Prince Henry of Battenberg and their children, and by the children of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught.

Mr. Edward Smith, the well known banker at Monte Carlo, has been appointed English Vice-Consul for the principality of Monaco. The non-existence of such an official has been a source of grievance to the large number of English visitors at Monte Carlo for many years past, as in the case of the death of an Englishman or Englishwoman without relations in attendance, the Monaco authorities took possession of the body and put seed upon the deceased's property. This actually happened when the late Mr. Sussex Milbank died at Monte Carlo last year.

Queen Victoria visited the Rival farm at Aberfeldie last week, and inquired her herd of black Daddies, which is now probably the finest in Scotland. These black cattle are very handsome beasts, and have taken a number of prizes at various shows during the last few years.

A few years ago the Queen expressed her regret that a portion of Windsor Castle at the disposal of the Prince and Princess of Wales for guests, on condition that the names of the proposed guests were submitted for her approval, and she also stipulated that there was to be no dancing during the week. There were some other clauses in the treaty, but the negotiations went off, as the prince did not care to be bound under restraint.

Lord Lytton has obtained a high reputation in Paris for the hospitality of the British embassy. The splendid hotel in the Faubourg St. Honore lends itself gracefully and naturally to princely entertainments, and a state dinner by Lord and Lady Lytton is really a *fete*. His Excellency orders his banquets with warmth and vivid fancy, but his eastern experiences, and it is precisely their fancy that charms the notion, which, as Alphonse Karr said, does not know what it wants, and is not satisfied till it gets it. The late Lord Lyons when ambassador, was content to observe a conventional line of state entertainment, partaking of a faded brilliancy which indeed suggested the gloomy grandeur of mildewed gilt. For the dinner given to President Carnot, "Owen Meredith" appears to have drawn liberally upon his Eastern resources. The walls of the "throne room" to which the guests retired after Lady Lytton's reception, were tastefully decorated with Indian trophies. Some one described an ambassador as a person whose duty was to be broad for his country's good. It may be so, and it may be true also that international affairs are assisted by the lighter part of the ambassadorial functions.

The authors of the canon that Mr. Balfour is about to resign the Chief Secretaryship utterly misunderstood that canon. It is as well known as any one that the verbiage of the canon is not a bad one, but he does not want in courage. He is fully aware of the weakening effect upon the prestige of a cabinet or a policy which necessarily follows a Ministerial resignation upon a party defeat at the polls. Now, it happens that if there is one man in the Government who can carry his official responsibility to the Chief Secretary. He is never discouraged. His method is essentially bureaucratic, and even Mr. Gladstone himself admits Mr. Balfour's skill in pursuing what he nevertheless regards as a mischievous course.

There is a "row" over these admissions granted to the members of the Aet meeting, the "Royal Envelope." This year there is more than the usual maneuvering for cards, and the Master of the Pack, who dispenses these favors, appears to have been imposed upon most woefully.

It is stated—and the statement is probable enough—that Sir Arthur Paget, Sir Edward Malet are both to be included in the first batch of life peers.

There is some probability that Mr. Partell will visit the United States in the autumn. Members of Mr. Bright's family admit that strong pressure is being put upon that gentleman to resign his seat in Parliament, and drive him to the United States, where his duties are not so onerous, and his health improved. It is probable that if he does go, it will be to the United States, and not to the Continent.

Every new invention gives rise to a new form of crime. The "typewriter" is no exception to the moralist; it is undeniable. There is this consolation, however, that the sum total of crime is not increased; it only assumes a new and different shape. Probably there was as much sin in the Garden of Eden after the fall, when scientific discoveries were in their infancy, as there has been since their development. Cain managed to kill his brother, and the world has been ever since a scene of crime and dynamite. But science and industry facilitate crime. Thus the "typewriter" has made libel and defamation of character very easy. Formerly if you wrote and said a man was a thief or a forger or had run away with his neighbor's wife, there was always the danger that your handwriting might be detected. Now, however, a man has only to sit down at his typewriter, and he can make the most scurrilous statements without danger of detection; as far as handwriting is concerned. So thought a certain person who recently wrote to a worthy solicitor, addressing him as "my genial gooseberry grower," and imputing all kinds of dishonest practices to him. The letter was signed by "typewriter," and he can make the most scurrilous statements without danger of detection; as far as handwriting is concerned. So thought a certain person who recently wrote to a worthy solicitor, addressing him as "my genial gooseberry grower," and imputing all kinds of dishonest practices to him. The letter was signed by "typewriter," and he can make the most scurrilous statements without danger of detection; as far as handwriting is concerned. So thought a certain person who recently wrote to a worthy solicitor, addressing him as "my genial gooseberry grower," and imputing all kinds of dishonest practices to him. The letter was signed by "typewriter," and he can make the most scurrilous statements without danger of detection; as far as handwriting is concerned. 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