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FAMILY SKELETONS.

NOTABLE PAGES IN THE HISTORY OF NOBLE HOUSES.

One Recalled by a Picture of a Beautiful Girl in the Painted Room of Lord Rosebery—The Ferrers' Ancestor Who Was Hanged—Grandfather of Present Speaker of the Commons a Prizefighter.

In the great gallery at Lord Rosebery's palatial home, The Durdans, near Epsom, among the portraits of his ancestors, and yet a little apart from them, is the picture of a young and exceedingly beautiful girl.

The original of this painting, which never fails to attract the attention of visitors, was a certain Kitty Canham, a village beauty of Thorpe-le-Soken, in Essex.

Mated when little more than a child to a man whom she disliked, Kitty fled to London, and after various adventures, married under an assumed name the Lord Dalmeny, who would, had he lived, have been the third Earl of Rosebery.

The young couple went abroad, and four years were spent happily in travelling from place to place. Then, at Verona, Kitty, sickened and died, a victim to the remorse born of her guilty secret.

But ere the end came the unhappy girl found strength to confess to Lord Dalmeny the wrong she had wrought him, and begged him, as a last favor, to promise to carry her body back to the home of her childhood and bury it in the village churchyard. The promise was readily given and faithfully kept. The young man traveling to Thorpe-le-Soken, via Harwich, with her embalmed remains in one big chest and her dresses and jewelry in another.

Arrived at his destination, he at once sought out the deceased's first husband, and the two followed her to the grave next day. Three years later Dalmeny, broken-hearted and inconsolable, died also, leaving his younger brother Neil to succeed to the earldom.

Had Ancestor Hanged. Such is the story of the Rosebery's one family skeleton. It is pathetic rather than grisly. But the exact reverse holds good with regard to the history attached to the specimen belonging to the Earls of Ferrers. For their particular skeleton is that of an ancestor who was hanged.

The crime, for which he died, was committed by Lawrence Shirley, third Earl Ferrers, the scene of the tragedy being his lordship's private room at Staunton Harold in Leicestershire, then, as now, the principal seat of the family. The victim was the murderer's own steward. He had been summoned there by the earl to go into certain business matters about which there had been disputes. These disputes were, it would appear, then and there renewed; and in the end the earl, a man of violent temper, ordered his retainer to sign a paper containing a confession of dishonesty. On his refusal, he shot him dead.

His lordship was in due course brought to trial before his peers in Westminster Hall, and, being found guilty, was sentenced to death. He was hanged by Tyburn, with a silken rope, for the possession of which the executioner and his assistant fought three rounds while yet the body was dangling.

Grandfather a Prizefighter. The grandfather of Mr. William Gully, Speaker of the House of Commons, was a prize-fighter. There is little to be ashamed of in the possession of this brand of family skeleton; and as a matter of fact, it is pretty generally averred that the right honorable gentleman is rather proud of the fact than otherwise.

For John Gully, the ancestor in question, was, despite his profession, a thoroughly good-hearted, genuine sort of fellow; a staunch friend and generous enemy. He got into the King's Bench Prison for debt when barely twenty-one years of age, through "backing a bill," for a friend, and was got out of it again by another friend, Henry Peace, the then champion of England, who gave a boxing exhibition in the jail yard for Gully's benefit.

Afterwards Gully himself entered the ring, won several battles, saved money, became a professional book-maker, and before he was forty had succeeded in amassing a million sterling. He left behind him, in addition to his money, no fewer than twenty-four children, one of whom was, as has already been intimated, the father of the present Speaker.

Hanged for Murder. There is no older or prouder family in England than that of which Baron Mowbray and Stourton is the present reigning representative. They were a turbulent lot, too, in times past, and so many of them have lost their heads for political offences that the fact of one among them—the eighth Baron it was—having been hanged for murder stands out even more prominently than it probably otherwise would do.

The victims were two yeomen farmers named Hartgill, father and son, who together took a prominent part in resisting the encroachments of their powerful neighbor, Lord Stourton, on the common lands of the parish of Kilminster, Wiltshire, wherein they all resided.

The Hartgills fought the baron in the courts of law, and won; whereupon his lordship gathered together an armed band of his servants and retainers, went and seized the two unfortunate farmers in broad daylight.

They were hurried off, bound and helpless, to Stourton House, and there beaten to death with bludgeons. Lord Stourton looking on approvingly, and remarking, in answer by one of the actual murderers, that he would see that "they should be more be called to account for it than if they had killed two sheep."

In this he was mistaken, however, for both he and they were called

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very sharply to account for it; nor could all his lordship's influence save them or himself from the fate which he, at all events, had richly merited. His retainers were gibbeted near the scene of their crime. Lord Stourton was hanged at Salisbury and buried within the cathedral, the silken rope which did duty at his execution being suspended above his tomb.

Had Him in Her Boudoir. The skeleton in the cupboard of the Berkeley family was installed there owing to the willfulness of a woman, Lady Henrietta, fifth daughter of the first earl. A handsome lass she was, high-spirited, but extremely wayward. At eighteen her father wanted her to espouse a suitor of his choice, whereupon she promptly fell in love with her kinsman by marriage, Lord Grey of Warrington.

Her affection was reciprocated. The lovers met clandestinely. But danger dogged their footsteps. On one occasion Lord Grey remained hidden for two whole days and nights in a tiny cupboard in her boudoir, his only food a few sweetmeats, while the stern old earl, her father, searched everywhere for him, sword in hand.

Afterwards the Lady Henrietta was removed to the family's palatial country seat in Surrey, where she was closely guarded. Nevertheless, she managed to apprise her lover of her whereabouts, and, aided by him, escaped, and rode on horseback to London.

After all this the course of true love ought, according to all precedents, to have run smoothly. But it did not. Lord Grey, prosecuted by Earl Berkeley before the Lord Chief Justice of England for decoying his daughter away, and threatened with pecuniary and social ruin, wavered, and ended by showing coldness to his lady-love, who had dared and risked all for his sake. Whereupon that young lady vowed that never again would she trust any man; and, what is more, she kept her word, dying unmarried some thirty years later.

A Love Idyll. A love idyll which was even more romantic, and which in the orthodox happy fashion, is recorded by that famous Duke of Chandos, who was so great a favorite of George I.

Traveling one day in Herefordshire, his lordship stopped at the Castle Inn, Marlborough, where he saw an ostler ill-treating a young and pretty woman.

The duke intervened, whereupon the aggressor explained that the girl was his wife, and that he intended doing as he pleased with his own; adding, however, that he was so thoroughly sick and tired of her that he would willingly sell her to a noble family.

Lord Chandos took the man at his word, paid him over on the spot £20, and carried the girl away with him. Thenceforth he treated her as his ward, had her educated, and eventually married her, her husband the ostler having died meanwhile.

So came plebeian blood into a noble family. But the duke himself was very, very happy with his born bride. "I owe," he said in his will, "the greatest comfort I have enjoyed in this life to my dear Duchess, Lydia Catherine."

All this, and much more, concerning this extraordinary love match, is contained in a volume preserved in the British Museum, and which is bound in some crimson velvet left over from covering the coffin of the lady in question.

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FOUR GARDENERS.

Many of the nuts and seeds buried by the squirrels are forgotten by them and grow to trees.

"Has it ever occurred to you who are the real gardeners of the forest?" asked an old friend of the High Park squirrels, as reported in The Toronto Globe. "I never heard a theory propounded that animals plant trees, but from what I have observed during ten years of friendship with the park squirrels, I am satisfied they do. Whether the acorn is father to the oak. Not that a squirrel plants trees, imbedded by instinct. I am not prepared to say. Their industry may be explained by a less selfish and more human motive. Squirrels during winter time and see how busy he is in laying in a stock of provisions for winter. Bushes and berries of acorns and nuts are gathered by the little fellows and stored in the hollows of trees and in other accessible nooks. When these are filled the squirrel buries his treasures in the ground. Busy, like a stock of lightning, he whisks about under oaks, picking acorns and burying them in the ground in a thousand and one spots. From sunrise to sunset he and his mates are busy storing away the precious winter supply.

The buried nuts are the first consumed by the wise little animal, who knows a time will come when the ground will be frozen hard and covered with snow, after which the supply tucked away in tree hollows must be depended upon. Doubtless many of the acorns buried by the little planter are forgotten. Others are covered under snow before he has a chance to dig them out. In either case, an acorn has been planted as delicately as if by hand of man, and only the thaw of the ground and the warm spring sunshine are needed to coax forth the oak.

"What takes place in the park doubtless happens in woods and forests all over the globe. Frequently, gardening experts say, young nut trees are found peeping out of the ground in early spring too far from any parent tree to account for wind having borne the heavy kernel on its wings. Similarly, exterminate the squirrels in any section of woods and the tree planting practically ceases. It is a well-known fact that seeds of plants frequently become lodged in the furs of wild animals only to be shaken off and to take root at some point far distant. But the planter-squirrel, I think, I discovered myself.

It is a wonderful thing when you come to consider what part the tiny, bushy-tailed animals may have played in the history of our country. Perhaps the majestic ships that plough the seas—maybe even the old, famous men-of-war—owe their existence primarily to the little paws of the soft-furred, soft-eyed little animals."

CANADIAN FISCAL NOTES.

New Sets for the Yukon Territorial Courts and Dawson Mining Court.

There are two new sets of Canadian fiscals to chronicle, necessitated by the establishment of two new courts in the far-off territory of Yukon. In the development of that mining district, it became desirable to institute new local machinery for the prompt settlement of claims, instead of referring disputes to Ottawa. One of these is the Yukon Territorial Court, having general jurisdiction, the other the Dawson Mining Court, occupying itself more particularly with mining claims. The fees imposed by both courts are represented by revenue stamps affixed to the papers filed, and each court has a separate series. Each series consists of six values, 10, 25 and 50 cents, and \$1, \$2 and \$3, all of one general design and color, but with varied frames. In the former series, which are steel blue stamps, the central vignette is a seated figure of Justice. Above the figure is the title "Yukon Territorial Court Law Stamp," below is the value. The stamps are rectangular, 38mm. high by 25mm. wide, printed on yellowish white wove paper, and perforated 12, like other Canadian issues.

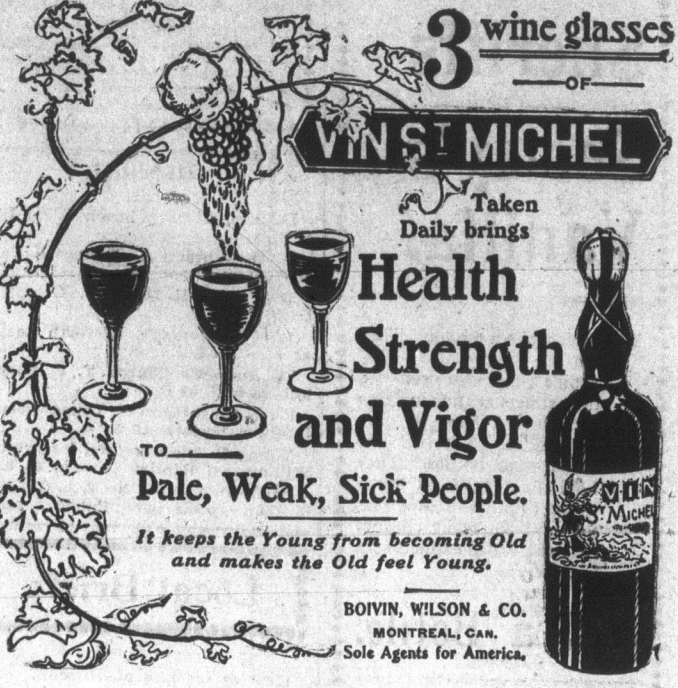
The other set is very similar in design and execution; the central design is the figure of a miner, with a pack on his back, examining a specimen. The legend above the figure is "Dawson Mining Court Law Stamp," with the value in words and figures below. The color is scarlet vermilion and in size they approximate the set first described, being, however, 1mm. higher. The general effect of both designs is vigorous and pleasing.

These two sets will doubtless be necessary for some time to come, though they can probably be obtained unused at fact in Dawson. So long as the documents on which they are used have any legal value the cancelled stamps cannot be removed from them.—Ottawa, March 2, 1903, Philatelic Era.

Amusing Tip That Any Boy Can Make. Push a pin half way through a green pea, making the two ends as nearly as possible the same weight—i.e., let the point come a little more than half way through. Then break off the stem of a common clay pipe and the toy will be completed. To make the pea dance put it on top of the pipe stem, the point of the pin sticking down the bore.

Throw your head back with the pipe in your mouth, so that the stem may be held vertically, and blow gently. This will make the pea rise. Keep blowing harder until the pea rises entirely from the pipe and is supported in the air. It will now begin to spin round and round and turn over and over, all the while bobbing up and down as long as the current of air is kept up. The dance may be changed by pushing the pin up to the head.

The pea will now rise to the top of the pipe and dance slowly and with great dignity around the edge, or, if the blast is a little stronger, it will spin rapidly unless the blower stops to laugh, when it is likely to fall upon the open mouth below.



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