

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

THE UNIVERSITY BOAT RACE, &c.

LONDON, April 7, 1871.

The Annual Boat Race between the Oxford and Cambridge Universities, one of the great events of the day, came off on Saturday last; and though the morn opened cloudy with a biting easterly wind, still untold thousands could be seen at an early hour wending their way to the muddy Thames. As I walked along the road to Hammersmith the scene was exceedingly gay—banners and flags flying from the houses, and everyone decked in some way with the colour of the University they fancied. The fair sex particularly seemed most faithful to the Cambridge colour—as most becoming, and which was the winning colour, as prophesied by your humble servant in a previous letter. Every kind of vehicle appeared to be in requisition on that morning, from a four-in-hand drag to a costermonger's donkey.

This is the 28th boat race between the Universities, 16 of which have been won by Oxford. The first race was rowed in 1829, when Oxford won by five or six lengths; and last year the Cambridge, after being beaten for nine consecutive years, were the winners by a boat's length. Upon no previous occasion was public interest in the contest screwed to a higher pitch, as the victory of the Cantabs last year had somewhat turned the sympathy in their behalf, after having been beaten so many years, and had impressed the public with a belief that the tide of events had turned in their favour. Not since the year 1858, when Cambridge beat the Oxford by 22 seconds, has the light blue been represented by so good an eight.

Their time, swing and feather, were admitted to be faultless, and as far as style, finish and appearance went the Cambridge looked the perfection of a racing crew. The boat they rowed in was 56 feet 5½ inches long—8 inches high at the bow, and 7½ at the stern.

The Oxford boat was much larger, and I believe the largest racing boat ever built.

The crew were bigger men than the winning crew, and to judge by their appearance when alongside on that morning, they looked the stronger and more powerful of the two crews. The actual difference between the crews was only 1 stone 12 lbs., as will be seen by the appended list of names and weights:

OXFORD.		st.	lb.
1. S. H. Woodhouse, University	11	6½	
2. E. Giles, Christ Church	11	13½	
3. T. S. Baker, Queen's	13	3	
4. E. C. Malan, Worcester	13	1	
5. J. E. Moss, Balliol	12	8½	
6. F. H. Payne, St. John's	12	9½	
7. J. M'C. Bunbury, Brasenose	11	0	
8. R. Lesley, Pembroke	11	10½	
(Cox.) F. H. Hall, Corpus	7	11	
CAMBRIDGE.		st.	lb.
1. J. S. Follett, Third Trinity	11	3	
2. J. B. Close, First Trinity	11	10	
3. H. J. Lomax, First Trinity	12	4	
4. E. A. A. Spencer, Second Trinity	12	7	
5. W. H. Lowe, Christ's	12	12	
6. E. L. Phelps, Sidney	12	2	
7. E. S. L. Randolph, Third Trinity	11	10	
8. J. H. D. Goldie, St. John's	12	10	
(Cox.) H. E. Gordon, First Trinity	8	1	

After reaching Hammersmith I wended my way through the crowd towards Barnes' Bridge and Mortlake, so as to have a good view of the finish, and the quick eye of an engineer friend who was with me discerned a position at Chiswick, where a High Stand had been erected in a field; a fee being charged for admission to the tune of half-a-crown, the proceeds for the benefit of a London hospital, so we thought we could not do better than combine charity with pleasure and a good view.

The distance of the race from Putney to Mortlake is about four miles and a half, and from this stand we could see about two miles and a half.

The toss for stations was won by Oxford, and they selected the Middlesex shore. About ten o'clock the crews having got into their boats and paddled out into position, the starter, after asking the momentous question "Are you ready?" to which there was no denial, said "Go!" and go they did—Oxford at first rowing quicker than their opponents, but the steady stroke of Cambridge soon brought the nose of their boat in front about the Ditch a minute from the start, and from that time to the finish they were never headed.

When they passed our stand, Cambridge was about two lengths ahead, the crew pulling like clock-work—a sight well worth seeing—while the Oxford seemed to be pulling in their wash somewhat wild. Terrific cheering for Cambridge, with "go it, Oxford," were heard all along the bank, and the waving of handkerchiefs from fair hands must have given new impetus to the crews. After passing Barnes' Bridge, the Oxford made a most magnificent spurt, and pulled up wonderfully—but Cambridge answered, and after a desperate finish came in the winner by a length and a half.

The race was run in 23 minutes 9½ seconds, the time last year being 21 min. 30 sec.

After the race I waited to see the procession back—the winning crew slowly rowing back first, followed by the losing boat and innumerable steamers and boats—quite a grand sight—people frantically shouting—bands playing, itinerant musicians squeaking on some undecipherable instruments, pick-pockets busy pushing their way through the crowd, then a general *mélée* and scramble to return to the city.

In the evening a four handed billiard match came off between the Oxford and Cambridge players at St. James' Hall, which was won by the Oxford representatives.

The next great event will be the Brighton review of volunteers on Easter Monday, which I regret I shall miss seeing. Lieut.-Gen. Sir Hope Grant is to be Commander-in-Chief; Lieut.-Gen. Hon. Sir J. Lindsay, Commander of the Defending

Force; while Major-Gen. Sir Charles Staveley will command the Attacking Force.

Prince Arthur will take part in the review as A. D. C. to Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, who commands the 4th Division of Infantry. The Prince of Wales will also be present, and the Emperor Napoleon.

Her Majesty last week paid a visit to the Emperor and Empress at Chiselhurst. The latter is said to have quietly resigned all appearance of state and is to be seen attired in the simplest of dress, even in plain cotton. For years the Empress has been the leader of fashion, and even now her manner of walking, with the body slightly bent forward, and the small stick which she frequently carries, is imitated by the Chiselhurst ladies, and can be traced even beyond that secluded district.

Her Majesty held a grand Drawing-Room at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday of last week, which was a full and most brilliant one, and has now returned to Osborne where she will remain till the 28th inst.

There is a very strong feeling of Republicanism throughout this country, which has been growing stronger and stronger—partly attributable to the long seclusion of the Sovereign.

Her appearance this season now on several occasions has tended somewhat, I think, to check the feeling, and now the horrible state of Republicanism in France.

The Bride and Bridegroom—Princess Louise and Marquis of Lorne have gone to the continent to spend their honeymoon, and will be absent about three months.

Yesterday afternoon the Princess of Wales gave birth to a Prince, being her sixth child, three sons and three daughters; the eldest being seven years old, and the youngest born 26th November, 1869. (The infant died the day after its birth.)

In a despatch to the Prefets M. Thiers says that the Government, desiring to spare the blood of the army, has not ordered an attack on the Forts of Issy, Vanvres or Montrouge, which, however, will fall with Paris when the right moment arrives. Inside Paris a state of uncertainty and dismay exists. The Commune, furious at their defeats, are resorting to very violent measures. They have arrested the Archbishop of Paris and others.

A correspondent of one of the London papers says that the National Guards inside Paris are on the eve of open revolt against the Commune, and thinks if there were anyone bold enough to give the signal there would be a counter-revolution. As matters stand, however, the Party of Order, while remaining passive themselves are placing their hopes on the arrival of General Vinoy.

Last evening the venerable Abbey of St. Peters, Westminster, was the scene of a religious service, the counterpart of which has never been exhibited within its walls since its foundation, 800 years ago by Edward the Confessor.

The Eve of Good Friday was selected by the Dean as a fitting opportunity to produce the Oratorio of Bach, taken from St. Matthew's history of the Passion. The nave of the sacred edifice was densely crowded. The singing was remarkably good and the choruses were given with wonderful precision and effect. About 200 men, 80 boys, and a large number of violinists composed the choir. The Oratorio was divided into two parts, between which the Dean gave an appropriate sermon, giving the history and description of this wonderfully impressive Oratorio. If ever artist poured out his whole soul in his work, that certainly did Bach in the Oratorio of the Passion. The very solemn character of the words and the peculiar fitness of the music, appeared to deeply affect the congregation.

The great International Exhibition at South Kensington will be opened on the 1st of May.

To-morrow, being Good Friday, is of course observed as in all civilized countries, as a general holiday. I propose in the afternoon to go to the Crystal Palace to hear the grand Oratorio, in which Sims Reeves, Madame Lemmens Sherrington and other artists take part.

W. M. F.

THE JOINT HIGH COMMISSION.

We reproduce this week the portraits of the members on both sides of the High Commission now sitting at Washington, for the consideration of the various differences now existing between Great Britain and the United States. The Commissioners appointed on the part of the Crown are, as our readers will remember, Right Hon. Earl de Grey and Ripon, Sir Edward Thornton, Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, Right Hon. Sir Stafford Northcote, and Montague Bernard, Esq., D. C. L.

THE BRITISH COMMISSIONERS.

George Frederick Samuel Robinson, Earl of Grey and Ripon, was born in 1827, succeeding his father in 1859 as the Second Earl of Ripon, and his uncle as the Second Earl de Grey. He has been a member of both Houses of Parliament, entering the House of Commons in 1853, and the House of Lords in 1859. In the House he acted with the Liberals. He is Grand Master of the Free Masons in England, is considered a man of ability, and has held several official positions. In June, 1859, he was appointed Under-Secretary of War; served as Under-Secretary of State for India from January to August, 1861; Secretary of War from 1853 to 1866; and in December, 1868, was appointed Lord President of the Council. He is accompanied by his son, Viscount Goderich, who is an *attaché* of the Commission.

Sir Edward Thornton, K. C. B., Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at Washington, and the successor of Sir Frederick Bruce, upon the death of the latter, is an experienced diplomatist, having represented his country in Italy, Brazil, Mexico, and several of the South American Republics. In his intercourse with the United States Government, he seems to have been actuated by a desire to bring the questions now in dispute between the States and Great Britain to a peaceable settlement. He is, by inheritance, the Count de Cassilhas, in Portugal, and first entered the Imperial Diplomatic Service in 1842.

Sir John A. Macdonald, K. C. B., LL. D., &c., Premier of Canada, a sketch of whose distinguished career appeared in our first volume, page 242, is the first Canadian Statesman who has taken part in an international conference for the settlement of Imperial questions; and the deep interest which Canada has in the issues involved makes his appointment a graceful tribute to the people of Canada, while it shows the growing weight of the Dominion in the Councils of the Empire. He is accompanied at Washington by Col. Bernard, A. D. C., Deputy of the Minister of Justice, as also by Lady Macdonald. Since our sketch of Sir John's

career, already referred to, we have to add that last summer, to the surprise and joy of his friends and the satisfaction of the whole country, he recovered from a long and most severe attack of illness, and about six months ago resumed his public duties with his health fully restored, and his intellectual vigour unimpaired.

Sir Stafford Henry Northcote was born in London, in 1818, and is a graduate of Balliol College, Oxford, where he took a first in classics. He studied law, and was admitted to practice in 1847. He acted as one of the Secretaries of the International Industrial Exhibition of 1851, and was elected a member of Parliament in 1855, as a Conservative. He was private secretary to Mr. Gladstone, while President of the Board of Trade, being himself promoted to the presidency on the retirement of his chief, and subsequently became Secretary of State for India. He is descended from an old Devonshire family, the baronetcy now vested in him having been created in 1641. Among the public offices he has held may be mentioned that of Secretary of State for India in the Disraeli administration. His son, Mr. Henry Northcote, of the Foreign Office, is also an *attaché* of the High Commission.

Professor Montague Bernard, D. C. L., who fills the chair of International Law and Diplomacy at the University of Oxford, is a man of undoubted ability. He is the author of several works, the latest being his celebrated volume on the neutrality of England during the American civil war. He is a relative of Lady Macdonald, and of Colonel Bernard, Deputy of the Minister of Justice.

These five comprise the British side of the Joint High Commission. They are accompanied by Lord Tenterden as Secretary to the British High Commissioners. Lord Tenterden is the second in descent from the first peer, who was well-known as the author of learned works on Marine Mercantile Law, and subsequently became Lord Chief Justice of England. The present peer is in the Diplomatic Service, and was recently attached to the Royal Commissions on the Neutrality and Naturalization Laws.

THE UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS.

The American Commissioners are Hon. Hamilton Fish, Hon. Robert C. Schenck, Justice Samuel Nelson, Hon. R. Hoar, and Hon. G. H. Williams.

The Hon. Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State of the United States, is a descendant of one of the oldest families of New York, and was born in the City of New York, in 1809. He was educated at Columbia College, and admitted to the bar in 1830. Early in his career he entered the political field, being elected to the State Assembly in 1837, and ten years later to the Lieutenant-Governorship of the State. In 1848 he was elected Governor, and on the expiration of his term served six years in the United States Senate. He then retired from public life, intending to enjoy a few years of foreign travel. The war, however, called him from Europe, and offered many occasions for his earnest work. After the retirement of Mr. Washburne—now the American Minister at Paris—from President Grant's Cabinet, he was appointed to the high position he now occupies.

General Robert C. Schenck is a native of Ohio, was born in 1809, and is a lawyer by profession. Like Mr. Fish, his political experience commenced when he was a young man. He became the Whig leader of the Ohio Legislature, from which place he was elected to the United States Senate, serving from 1843 to 1851. He was then appointed Minister to Brazil, and on his return, instead of resuming the practice of his profession, he entered the army, serving with distinction and attaining the rank of Major-General. In 1862 he was again elected to Congress, and occupied his seat four years. In the latter part of last November President Grant tendered him the Mission to England, which he accepted, and his nomination was promptly confirmed.

Justice Samuel Nelson is a native of New York, and was born in 1792. He was admitted to the bar in 1817, and became distinguished in his profession. In 1820 he was a Presidential Elector, and during the following year was a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention. From 1823 to 1831 he was a Judge of the Circuit Court, from 1831 to 1837 a Judge of the Supreme Court of the State, and during the last-named year became Chief-Justice. This position he held till 1845, when President Tyler appointed him a Justice of the United States Supreme Court, an office he still worthily holds.

Ebenezer Rockwell Hoar was born in Massachusetts, in 1816. He was educated at Harvard, and graduated with distinction. About the year 1840 he was admitted to the bar, and soon obtained a large and lucrative practice. In April, 1859, he became a Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, a position he resigned in 1869 to accept the office of Attorney-General of the United States, from which latter, however, he soon retired. Mr. Hoar is said to be a gentleman of profound legal knowledge. He was a strong anti-slavery man during the political war over the slavery question.

Senator George H. Williams is a native of New York, and a lawyer by profession. In 1844 he emigrated to Iowa, where he became a Judge in 1847 and a Presidential Elector in 1852. During the following year he was appointed Chief-Justice of Oregon Territory, and held that position under Pierce's administration and during a part of Buchanan's, when he resigned. In 1864 he was elected a Senator in Congress for Oregon for the term ending the 4th of last month, when he retired from the Senate, a Democratic successor having been chosen by the Legislature.

THE ROYAL MARRIAGE.

LUNCHEON IN THE WATERLOO GALLERY.

At the conclusion of the ceremony (as detailed in our last) the procession of the Royal Family left the Chapel in the same order as on entering it, and returned to Windsor Castle from the West Door. The route to and from the Castle to St. George's Chapel was by the Castle Hill and through Henry VIII's Gateway. On their return to the Castle the registry of the marriage was signed by the bride and bridegroom and duly attested by Her Majesty the Queen, and by the other Royal and distinguished personages invited to attend for that purpose, in the White Drawing-Room. Luncheon was then privately served for the Royal Family in the Oak Room, and at the same time the guests invited by Her Majesty to be present at the Royal Wedding were entertained at luncheon (standing) in the Waterloo Gallery of Windsor Castle. The Bishop of London was absent on account of his sickness, the state of his health having been such that it was feared he could hardly endure the fatigue of performing the marriage ceremony. The other high dignitaries of Church and State