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—(BROWNING.)

London, Friday, July 13.

HON. EDWARD BLAKE is doing well in Great Britain. The newspapers most virulently opposed to Gladstone and to Home Rule have begun to sneer at him.

W. T. STEAD, the well-known editor of the Review of Reviews, accompanied by his wife and son, is about to visit the United States and may extend their trip to Canada.

THREE more Jersey ballot box stuffers have been sent to the penitentiary. Our neighbors put Canadians to shame in dealing with their election thieves. In the Dominion, Sir John Thompson defends and honors the men who return militia candidates by stuffing the voters list with names of persons who have been proved to have absolutely no right to vote.

It is truly wonderful how people are governed by conventional usages, and stick to customs despite the strongest opposition to them. At Meningen, in Germany, recently, when Karl Oepfershausen and his affianced arrived at the parish church to get married, the bride adorned with myrtle and orange blossoms, the parson refused to marry the couple unless the bride removed what he termed heathen tom-foolery, meaning the myrtle and orange blossoms. This the bride refused to do, whereupon the irritated clergyman violently tore away the myrtle and orange blossoms, and then performed the ceremony. The incident made such a deep impression on the mind of the woman that she has since been in hysterics, and it is feared, will go insane. The question that naturally suggests itself is whether a bride who goes to the altar decked in orange blossoms is any more of a heathen than the people who show their respect for the dead by wearing the most sombre of garments?

According to a cablegram, Rev. Newman Hall, the distinguished British preacher, has retired from the ministry, and will be succeeded by Rev. Frederick Meyer, of Regent's Park Chapel, London. Newman Hall has many friends in Canada who will be pleased to hear that, at an immense gathering of his friends in London, he was presented with a purse of gold and a magnificent service of plate. The famous preacher was born at Maidstone in 1816, and was ordained pastor of the Albion Congregational Church, Hull, in 1842. In 1854 he was chosen minister of Rowland Hill's Chapel, Blackfriars Road, London. He subsequently removed with his congregation to the handsome new church in Westminster Bridge road, the tower of which, called "Lincoln Tower," was erected by English and American subscribers in memory of Abraham Lincoln. During the civil war the Rev. Mr. Hall raised his voice on behalf of the North, and subsequently visited this continent with a view to promoting international good will. He has long been associated with the temperance cause and is the author of various evangelical books and tracts, of which the best known is "Come to Jesus," of which several millions have been circulated. He also is the author of "Gethsemane."

THE NEW POWER.

John Burns, the Liberal and Labor Parliamentary M.P. for Battersea, London, began work at the age of 8 in Price's candle works. At 14 he was apprenticed to a Millbank engineer. In 1855 he was unsuccessful candidate for West Nottingham. He was the leader of the great dock strike. Mr. Burt, the Liberal member for Morpeth, is the son of a miner. He was secretary of the Northumberland Miners' Union in 1865. Member of the Labor Commission in 1891. President of the Trade Union Congress, 1874. Has been M.P. for Morpeth since 1874. The workmen are forcing to the front their candidates and their views on matters of policy. More than ever in the future will they influence legislation. They invariably lean to the Liberal or Radical side, which has led a leading British journal to say that "Liberalism is nowhere without the working-class vote, and it will be nowhere without working-class politics." And why not? The classes have looked after their own interests for hundreds of years. They can be relied on to do so in the future. It is now the duty of the masses, but they need counseling and guiding and it is the duty of those statesmen who sympathize with their aspirations and who honestly desire their advancement to attend to that.

GLADSTONE'S RETURN.

We are not among those who see anything very remarkable in the reduction of Mr. Gladstone's majority in Midlothian from several thousands in 1885, with a stop-gap candidate running against him, to 693 this year, when a popular landlord and a famous soldier was his opponent.

Those who have written as if Midlothian were a Liberal stronghold, almost captured by the enemy, know nothing of the history of the constituency. Prior to 1880, from time immemorial, its electors had given a majority for the Tory party. The great territorial magnate, the Duke of Buccleuch, who has a castle for every month in the year, and who controls 450,550 broad acres, saw to it that the Conservative candidate was elected. Sitting in Dalkeith Palace, in the heart of Midlothian, the bold Buccleuch was the arbiter of the political destinies of the famous and fertile shire. To many it appeared a bootless task when in 1880 Gladstone marched northward to personally "hear the Douglas in his hall," and to dispute the right of the Buccleuch to provide, from generation to generation, a representative for the county. Up to the general election in that year, the owners of Dalkeith Palace were invincible. But the Grand Old Man, after a contest unexampled for its intensity in modern political campaigns, put to route, by the narrow majority of 281 vote, the young Earl of Dalkeith, the son and heir to the Duke of Buccleuch. It was a great feat, and almost unparalleled in the annals of Parliamentary contests.

And now, after the lapse of twelve years, the Grand Old Man holds the constituency by a majority over double what was given him in his first great encounter with a traditional enemy of Liberalism. That result should be fairly satisfactory to his friends, especially when it is considered that a most determined effort was made to defeat the right honorable gentleman. His opponent had nursed the constituency in season and out of season for the last four years. Non-resident voters were manufactured by the score, and many honest voters in the riding were thus neutralized that will hold good when the law provides that a man shall vote only where he has his domicile. In addition to this, the preachers of the Church of Scotland turned upon the right honorable gentleman because he has expressed his readiness to put all the religious bodies on an equality in the eyes of the law so soon as the majority of the people of Scotland so express themselves. The favored Kirk objects to this fair arrangement, and the pulpits fulminated against Gladstone so strongly that there can be no doubt that he lost votes which on broad political grounds would have been recorded for him. To obtain a majority as large, in the face of such opposition, was a remarkable feat. Mr. Gladstone has cleverly turned to account the opposition of the Established Church preachers in Midlothian to him. He says they made disestablishment an issue and the people have decided against them. Thus have they strengthened the movement in favor of the voluntary support of religion. Seeing that Gladstone refused to make disestablishment a plank in his platform at this time, the Midlothian persons were not well advised when they went on the warpath.

OVERWORKED GIRLS.

A correspondent, apparently a woman, writes to the ADVERTISER, calling attention to the long hours which a number of girls have to work in a city industrial establishment. She tells us the girls have to begin work sharp at 7 o'clock in the morning, that they are only allowed half an hour to eat their dry lunch at noon, and then have to toil till 7, 8 and 9 p.m., and sometimes later. If this is not a fancy picture it certainly goes to prove that these girls are overworked, and that sooner or later their debilitated systems will give way. Our correspondent thinks that the girls should be prevented from working long hours. It is a difficult thing for an outsider to interfere, but we might suggest that there is really no necessity for any girl in the city of London working long hours at a laborious business every lawful day in the week. Is it not a notorious fact that in the honorable employment of domestic service the supply of trained employees is always less than the demand. Why is it, we ask our correspondent, that the girls she has singled out for our consideration stick to their present unsatisfactory employment while for less arduous work they could have better food, better pay and more leisure time? This is the problem that presents itself. If any of our readers can aid the housekeepers and the over-worked girls in other employments than house service to a solution of it they will accomplish great good. If employers were suddenly to find that they could not obtain the service of girls on the terms now offered because the young women had taken to domestic employment, there would soon be a reduction in the hours.

NOT SENTIMENT. BUT PROFIT.

It is estimated that \$400,000,000 gold of British capital has been invested in the railways of the Argentine Republic. The British investor is not moved to invest his money by sentimental reasons. What he looks for is good returns. He has placed and is placing every day far more money in United States enterprises than in those of Canada, and his excuse for so doing is invariably, "What I am after is the extended market. Get that in Canada and my money will go there."

MORE HONOR IN IT.

(Buffalo Express.)
Mr. Gladstone was re-elected by the narrow majority of 693 votes. But, then, that is more honor than if he had won without opposition, as he did the last time.

THE NEW CRY, "BEER AND FEAR."

The motto of Gladstone's opponents used to be "Beer and the Bible." They were to be "Beer and the Bible." They were afraid that temperance reform, to which the Liberal party is pledged, would injure the vested interests of the brewers; and they expressed alarm—a groundless alarm, as we in Canada have proved—that unless a Church was subsidized at the expense of the nation—religion could not hold its own. According to the London Daily News the cry now is "Beer and Fear." The followers of Lord Salisbury have received the support of the liquor men in this election because he is opposed to local option, and even went the length of bringing in a measure to grant compensation to liquor makers and dealers who might have their licenses withdrawn from them. The Daily News hints that beer has been all-powerful in the British elections, and argues that the best way to combat it in future is to have the elections on a public holiday, and curtail the opportunities to get drunk. Our old world friends are behind us in this respect, and no doubt the new Parliament will take an early opportunity to provide the needed remedies. The Liberals are already pledged to one man one vote residential suffrage. It will be an easy thing for them to add to that reform a provision that the elections, instead of being held in the happy-go-lucky, strung-out way, shall be held on one day and that the bars for the sale of intoxicating liquors shall be closed. If they go a step further and decree that polling day shall be a public holiday no reasonable man can object.

THE FASHION OF WEARING MOURNING.

[From Wives and Daughters for July.]
As the fashion of wearing mourning is ugly enough to cast a gloom over the hearts of all who behold it, and expensive enough to severely tax those in comfortable circumstances, and cripple those in uncomfortable ones; as it is a source of misery, too cold in winter, and easily ruined by rain or dust; and it is utterly senseless and unchristian in every particular, and has nothing in the world to recommend it except custom, it is likely that one-half the civilized globe will continue to support it as heretofore.

The burden in this case as in most cases falls upon women. Why it should do so is a problem impossible to solve. Why do not men rush to their tailors as women to their dressmakers on the occasion (highly appropriate occasion!) of a death in the family, and order coat, vest and trousers of the latest style in mourning goods, each garment to be finished with crape trimmings and embellished with crape buttons? Why are they denied the relief of wearing a suffocating veil, and of advertising the extent of their grief by the amount of black margin on their collars and cuffs? Remarks of this nature will probably lay us open to the accusation of "making fun of sacred things." But the fashion of wearing mourning is not a sacred thing, it is an absurd thing, and if it could be ridiculed out of existence we would make a point of spending soon upon it for many a month to come. Doubtless dress should reflect the mood of its wearer, but there are plenty of subdued tints for sad hearts without resorting to the depressing gloom of deep black. Dress is a curiously impressionable, not to say mediocentric, material. It can be made to express gaiety, and severity, coquetry and prudishness, pride and humility, good taste and every degree of tastelessness; but try to make it express mourning, and it is to be presumed unmitigable, woe is pushing its capacities entirely too far. Because no matter how perpetual your real anguish may be, after a certain time has elapsed fashion ordains that the blackness of darkness shall be "lightened," and that after a certain additional period it shall be renounced altogether, so that those who supposed by your dress a year or two ago that you were inconsolable now give your altered clothing a startled glance and mentally exclaim, "So she is no longer so much after all." The very possibility of such a remark being made outrages a sensitive nature. If "deep mourning" symbolizes a broken heart, then "half mourning" signifies that the two pieces are in process of reuniting, and left-off mourning means that the crack is no longer visible. If one would avoid the cold-blooded conclusion one must not give bereavement a blacker hue by draping it in funeral tawdriness purchased at the "mourning counter." To wear mourning after a death is no more needful than to "wear rejoicing," if such a thing were possible, after a birth. There needs no other symbol of your joy in the latter case—nor of your grief in the former. If our clothes must express our extreme emotions, the garment of praise is to be preferred to the spirit of heaviness.

But "we ought to pay respect to the dead." Yes, certainly; if we are perfectly sure that there are any dead. But the ancient doctrine of the immortality of the soul has many adherents, even among women who wear mourning. This doctrine teaches that when the eagle has flocked the dust from his wing, and gone up to face the sun, it is natural to grieve over the dust, but it is not accurate to speak of the eagle as dead. Nor when the immortal creature is basking in a brightness too dazzling for mortal eyes does there seem any reason why its friends and lovers should garment themselves in lamentable black. It is perfectly consistent for materialists to go in for lugubrious melancholy and dreammaking on such occasions. But for Christians!

And yet even for the most spiritual-minded the sore pain of bereavement will make itself felt. When your friend is nearing her last in your arms your own frame is racked with agonies, your own brow is damp with the cold sweat on her; it seems that your own heart must fail when hers ceases to beat. With her last particle of strength she lifts one transparent hand and lays it reverently on your cheek. You cover it with warm kisses, with warm tears. But it will never be warm again. So long have you thought and felt as one, that now when she is escaping from her prison it is as though you were caught away with her. Your soul living on the threshold of heaven hears from its own mortal lips an exceeding bitter cry.

What succeeds this mood of ecstasy and desolation? Inquiries as to how you will have your new dress made. A panel of crapes will be becoming to you, though some prefer cute little crapes ruffles edging the skirt? Have a deep band around the waist? There are so many pretty fancy styles in bouges nowadays, that no matter what you choose it will be sure to look dainty. You tear yourself from the vile slumbers and go away to the sacred room where your darling had lain. But "the vision splendid" is gone forever. Divine moods are born only of spiritual living. You kneel down to weep, and you may well weep, for the taint of worldliness has pierced to your very soul.

TORONTO TOPICS.

Costly Litigation in Prospect—A Boy Drowned.

TORONTO, July 14.—On July 3 Architect Lennox, who is putting up the court house, served a notice upon Neelen & Co., St. Catharines, who have the masonry contract for about \$850,000, that they must put on a much larger force of men and rush the work within ten days. This time has expired and the request has not been complied with. It is expected legal steps will be taken to take possession and reject the work and costly litigation is likely to result. A lad named Marshall was drowned this afternoon while bathing.

A mass meeting of the Christian Endeavor societies of the city was held to-night in the Westminster Presbyterian Church to welcome back the delegates from the New York convention and receive their reports. There was a general expression of feeling that the convention would be productive of immense good to all.

NO NOTORIETY FOR HIM.

Why Mr. Cleveland Declined to Give a Photograph of Baby Ruth.

ATLANTA, Ga., July 15.—An afternoon paper prints the following letter from ex-President Cleveland in answer to the request for the picture of baby Ruth for publication in that journal: "Replying in behalf of Mrs. Cleveland to your letter of the 13th inst., I have to say that there has never been a photograph taken of our child, and it is impossible, for that reason to comply with your request. It is only frank to add that if there were any of her pictures in existence we would not be willing to have one published in any newspaper. We are doing all we can to check notoriety which would be increased by such a publication. We would be glad to please you and the paper with which you are connected, but we cannot bring ourselves to the point of giving our baby's picture to be printed in newspapers. Yours truly, "GROVER CLEVELAND."



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