

The Earl of Balfour.

In selecting "Earl of Balfour" for his title, the new peer has gone back to the original home of his family, says a Scottish correspondent of the London "Observer." Balfour is a small place in Fife, near Markinch. The Balfours of Balfour are a family of great antiquity. In some genealogical works it is stated that the earliest known ancestor was Siward, a Northumbrian, living in the reign of Duncan.

From this Siward those writers trace his great-grandson, Octave de Strathairn. He was the father of William Balfour, ancestor of the Balfours of Burleigh in the male line, and of the Balfours of Balfour in the female line, and Michael de Balfour of Strathairn.

The Balfours of Whittinghame are a branch of the family of the Balfours of Balfour. The first mention of the Balfours of Balfour is about 1290, when Peter Balfour on his marriage to a daughter of Sir Thomas Sibbald, of Balgonie, Fife, was granted a charter of the lands of Devan. James, the younger son of John Balfour, fifth of Balfour, is the ancestor of the Balfours of Whittinghame. James went in early life to India, where he acquired a large fortune, and purchased the estates of Whittinghame in East Lothian, which had for many generations been the inheritance of the Hays and the Douglases. He also bought Balgonie in Fife, and Strathconan in Rosshire. James married Eleanor Maitland, daughter of James, eighth earl of Lauderdale. He was succeeded by the father of the Earl of Balfour, whose wife was the second daughter of the second Marquess of Salisbury.

It may interest the curious to know that the Earl of Balfour inherits the blood of Secretary Maitland, of Lethington, and of Secretary Lord Burghley. An amusing anecdote is related on the Bench of an ancestor of the Earl of Balfour, who was a judge of the Commissary Court in Edinburgh in the seventh century. On one occasion his sister appeared as a witness instead of recognising, he affected ignorance of her, and asked, preparatory to administering the oath, "Woman, what is your name?" Surprised at such an interrogatory from her own brother, she expressed herself astonished at his manner. He, however, repeated the question more precatory than at first, and with increasing surprise she exclaimed, "Dear me, Andrea, you're surely come clean demented not to know your own sister," to which the dignified judge replied that on the Bench he did not know father or mother, brother or sister.

His Lordship's other title, Viscount Traprain of Whittinghame, comes from the well known old beacon light of Traprain, which lies a few miles from Whittinghame House, and is a prominent feature of central East Lothian. It is the hill referred to by Sir Walter Scott as Dunsinane Law. Traprain has recently come into considerable public notice through the finding there of the celebrated Traprain Treasure, which had been buried for fourteen centuries, and is now in the Scottish Museum at Edinburgh.

Murder of King Edward II.

On September 21, 1297, King Edward II. of England, who had been compelled to abdicate in favour of his son—Edward III.—some months before, was secretly murdered at Berkeley Castle by order of his Queen. The character of this unfortunate monarch was certainly one of the most despicable. He was devoid of all self-control, dignity, or firmness. Indeed so totally did he differ from his noble and brave father—Edward I.—that people contrasting the irresolute and weak minded King with his predecessor, were led to believe that he was no true son of Edward I. and not a voice was raised against his deposition. Forgetting the insipidities of the Queen—Isabella—the fair—and influenced by her beauty, and eloquence, the English for a time blindly followed her lead and that of her favourite, Mortimer. She was the popular idol of the hour, and while the national detestation last at the Queen could do no wrong, she seems to have hated her husband with all the intensity of a cruel and vindictive nature, and finding that ill treatment and exposure did not kill him, she ordered the two ruffians who had charge of him to have him murdered. He was removed by night from Bristol to Berkeley Castle, and it is said that on the way, wishing to disguise the King, his gaolers insisted on shaving him on the road, using a helmet as a basin and obtaining the water from a "way-side ditch."

According to the story, the unfortunate monarch shed hot tears, and then turning to the men, said that after all he had been shaved in hot water. It is not known exactly how he was murdered but his face after death expressed the greatest agony. For some days no one dared to remove his body, but at last the Abbot of Gloucester, holding a crozier, and followed by a train of monks, boldly entered the blood-stained hall, and throwing a pall emblazoned with the name of the church over the body, had it conveyed to the Cathedral, where, after lying in state for three days, it was buried.

Would any man or woman refuse to give some small help to a child bereft of father or mother? NOT ONE!

On Sunday next the unselfish sisters of Belvedere Orphanage ask the Catholic people of St. John's to help a little in the upkeep of

165 FATHERLESS INNOCENTS

who must have food and clothing—the bare necessities of life. After the pulpit announcement on Sunday, a few close friends of the institution have arranged to extend this appeal to

ALL OUR CHARITABLY DISPOSED PEOPLE

no matter what class or creed who would like to do something for those helpless little ones. Remembering the precious treasure your own little ones enjoy, don't refuse an extra dollar to the orphans' fund. Fathers and mothers, grown-up brothers and sisters, think kindly of the Belvedere Orphans next Sunday. The prayers of lisping little lips will reward you.

"FRIENDS OF THE ORPHANS"

Who Knows Capt. Bill?

PIPING TALE ABOUT A MILLIONAIRE SKIPPER AND VAST SMUGGLING OPERATIONS AT HALIFAX.

LONDON, Sept. 7.—Halifax is given some peculiar publicity by an article in the London Sunday Times, purporting to give some reasons why the United States is not as dry as it might be. Some parts of the article may be authentic, but that relating to Halifax seems rather apocryphal. It reads:

"The great centre of liquor smuggling of the Northern States, is Halifax and let me say at once that not the drop of liquor is smuggled out of Halifax. The Nova Scotia authorities are just as keen as the United States in preventing liquor smuggling. Halifax Harbour, is, however, always full of schooners waiting out for 'trading voyages.' Having fitted out they sail in ballast to St. Pierre, the small French possession off the coast of Newfoundland where large depots of liquor have been established. There, of course, it is perfectly legal to trade in liquor. The schooners clear for the Bahamas, Cuba, or some other climate where it is no crime to sell or import liquor, and disappear. Needless to say, they never reach the ports for which they clear, but a few weeks later they turn up again in Halifax Harbour, to prepare for another trip. The Atlantic coast of the United States is several thousand miles long and it is impossible to police it adequately."

"The chief of this traffic is famous throughout North America. He is Capt. Bill Miller who a few years ago was skipper of a fishing schooner. To-day he is said to be a millionaire and his house in Halifax is the finest after the Governor's. He makes no concealment of his trade for he is violating no law in Halifax or in St. Pierre and he does not sail his own boats so he has no need to venture into the United States."

"All this does not alter the fact that America is really dry. Imported liquor formed a small part of her consumption in the old days and today there is less imported than ever. All the American distilleries are closed, and the breweries and vineyards have been turned to other uses."

Is Capt. "Bill" a real person, or just an imaginary character intended to give spice to the smuggling yarn? If Capt. "Bill" is so well known in London and Chicago—the article is written by John S. Steels, London, Editor of the Chicago Tribune—it seems strange that the United States Customs authorities have not got a line on his extensive operations, and put a period to them. Just how authoritative the article is may be judged by the statement that American vineyards have been turned to other uses. It is well known that the California Fruit Growers' by judicious have increased their sales of grapes and raisins since the advent of prohibition.

Again, it is rather strange that the Sunday Times, one of the leading papers of the capital of the greatest mercantile marine country in the world, should publish a story that the Customs authorities at Halifax should accept the entry of vessels which are outlaws of the sea. For that is about what the story amounts to. If a vessel cleared for the Bahamas or Cuba, but discharged her cargo off the coast of the United States, and then returned to Halifax, the Customs authorities would want to know why she violated her clearance papers, and what had become of her cargo. Probably the bold Captain "Bill"

Thirteen is Lucky.

FAMOUS PEOPLE WHO LIKE THAT NUMBER.

There are plenty of notable people alive to-day, who, so far as being afraid of "13," about their lucky number.

One is the great Arctic explorer, Nansen. On the 13th March, he started on his great voyage with 13 men. He reached civilisation again on 13th August, and was entertained at the

13th dinner of the Scottish Geographical Society on the following Feb. 13th.

Sir Hall Cain likes "13." Four of his most successful novels were published on the 13th of the month, the most successful of them on a 13th that was also a Friday.

His play, "The Bondman," was produced at Drury Lane on a 13th. All through 13 has been kind to him.

A striking instance of the luck of 13 was provided by the great composer, Richard Wagner.

With 13 letters to his name, he was born in 1813 (the figures which add up to thirteen,) on the 13th of the month "Tannhauser" was finished on the 13th February, and first performed on a 13th.

Wagner died on the 13th Feb., 1883—not an instance of luck, but strange—at the ripe age of seventy, leaving 13 completed works behind him. After all, the unlucky 13 superstition is only more or less modern, for

in the old days it was held a fortunate number, especially in the East.

Among the Jews 13 cities were dedicated to the priestly tribe of Levi; 13 high priests descended from Aaron; the preparations for the Passover commenced upon the 13th day of the month Nisan, and there were 13 ingredients in the sacred incense.

Small Feet.

A recent comedy of the golf links is recalled by letters in The Daily Mail as to the size of women's feet.

After one glance at the trim figure of a well-tailored woman who entered his workshop, the golf professional answered her query with, "Aye, I'll give ye a lesson. But ye'll no mak a player. Ye havena gowling feet. Ye canna get a firm stance wi' these doll's feet."

His visitor had to confess that the size of her feet was a serious handicap in walking, tennis, swimming, and other exercises and that she could not easily buy ready-made shoes to fit.

The head of a wholesale shoemaking firm said that where a dozen years ago size 3 was in great demand and 4 was the average size, a 5 is now generally worn.

"The reason," he said, "is that the athletic young woman of to-day refuses to wear shoes which pinch. She buys shoes which she can wear at once with ease; her mother bought shoes which had to undergo a painful process of 'breaking in.'"

"Each district has its characteristic shaped foot. Glasgow women, on the average, have the smallestest, and, as they are plump, small-boned feet, they can be comfortable in a small shoe. The French foot, though broader, is very similar. Lancashire women have larger feet, conforming more closely to the classical Greek type, broad and firm with a high arch."

The London foot is long and slender and an elegant foot but lacking the strength of the Northern type."

Household Notes.

To 2 tablespoonfuls of fat, add 1 cupful milk, 2 tablespoonfuls of flour, and season. Stir in this gravy 1 cupful canned corn, 1 cupful soft crumbs and a little chopped green pepper. Bake in a baking dish.

To ½ cupful finely chopped beets, add 1 cupful cottage cheese and a little minced chives. Season and shape into balls. Arrange on salad around a center of cooked, sliced beets, and serve with French dressing.

One way to save steps is to nail a strip of varnished wood to the wall above the gas stove. Screw in a row of brass hooks and use them for iron spoons, strainers, broilers, small spiders and any utensil that goes direct from hook to stove.

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