

A TRIP TO THE OLD COUNTRY.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF THE WONDERS IN ENGLAND.

In Ottawa there are a great many old country people who are very fond of talking of their native land, this gave me the desire to travel and see the wonders I so often heard mentioned, and I was not disappointed. I left Ottawa for Montreal, and boarded the steamship Sardinian, Allan line. Amid cheers we started on the trip across the great Atlantic.

At first the passengers were all on deck enjoying the sights along the river, but as we got fairly out to sea, the motion of the boat did not agree with most of us. I will not give my experience of sea sickness, but in two days I felt like an old sailor and enjoyed very much my first trip on the ocean, the weather being all that could be desired.

LIVERPOOL.

The first impression received is of the immensity of its shipping; the docks are over seven miles long with ships from all parts of the world.

After viewing the sights of this great seaport town I boarded the train for Carlisle, The English cars are decidedly different to ours, being divided into narrow compartments with side doors, and to my mind not as convenient for long journeys as those in Canada.

CARLISLE.

In a city which combines remote antiquity with present prosperity. It was the scene of perpetual victory and defeat, being repeatedly destroyed and rebuilt, during the 500 years of Border fights between the English and Scotch. Part of the stone wall which surrounded the city in ancient times still remain. The Castle was built in 1092. Queen Mary Stuart was imprisoned here for a time. Kings have held parliament, sought refuge and died within its walls.

The Cathedral was founded by William Rufus, Henry I, finished it in 1101. The people here were very kind and curious to see a person from the Dominion of Canada, asking many questions about our country.

The villages around Carlisle are very picturesque, especially Corby and Wetheral, divided by the river Eden. At Wetheral is a quaint little church hidden among the trees, under which are the tombs of the Howards, once famous as naval commanders in the English navy, which may be seen by looking through a grating in the church floor. In the churchyard the

Another rural retreat is Gilsland, where Sir Walter Scott found material for his "Guy Mannering" and fell in love with his future wife. Taking a walk along the river, we come to a large stone which by its chipped and worn appearance seems to be an object of special attention. This is said to be the stone on which he "popped" the question and is called the "popping stone." Here the visitors sit when on a visit to this lovely glen, and stand under the Hinwthorpe tree, known as the "kissing tree." After spending a very pleasant and profitable time in Carlisle, I then leave for that greatest of all cities, London. On the way passed Sheffield, the place noted for its cutlery, and Chesterfield, with its curious church spire made like a corkscrew and looking as though it would topple over, on through towns and villages, some looking smoky and dingy on account of the great industries about them, and getting glimpses of well cultivated fields, we at last find ourselves in

LONDON.

The deepest impression left on the mind after a visit to the great Metropolis, is that produced by its immense size, which may be increased by the mention of a few facts. It includes 60 distinct villages, a population of over 5,000,000, increasing at the rate something like 45,000 a year. On London Bridge alone 107,000 persons and 20,000 vehicles pass every 24 hours. Near here is the famous London Tower which was erected by William the Conqueror where many deeds of cruel wrong were perpetrated. It covers 13 acres of ground, and is divided into 12 towers all of which have been used as prisons. The first room of interest is the jewel room, containing the Crown of Queen Victoria, the ruby given to the Black Prince in Spain, and worn by Henry V, in his helmet at Agincourt, the Prince of Wales' coronet, and the baptismal font used at Royal christenings. In the yard, a stone block marks the place where the scaffold stood on which Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard, wives of Henry VIII, were beheaded, also Lady Jane Grey, Sir Walter Ralleggh, etc.

In the armory are to be seen figures in heavy suits of mail worn in the olden days of battle, and also the block, thumbscrew and other relics.

St. Paul's Cathedral is 370 feet high and from the golden gallery at the top, the crowded streets, the far winding Thames, the distant parks make a majestic picture. Up stairs there is the whispering gallery 108 feet in diameter the slightest whisper on one side is distinctly heard on the other, and from it a fine view of the interior is obtained, which is richly ornamented.

The Temple Church in Fleet street dates from 1185. On the paved floor are stone effigies of the old Knight Templars in full armour, with legs crossed in token that they had fought in Palestine. In the Churchyard Oliver Goldsmith lies buried.

At St. James' Palace lived William III, Queen Ann and the four Georges; here Queen Victoria was married and still holds her court drawing rooms.

At Westminster Abbey, England's illustrious dead are laid to rest from the time of Edward the Confessor, who died 800 years ago, among whom are Queen Elizabeth, her sister Mary, and Mary Queen of Scots, George II, and Queen Caroline the two Princes murdered in the tower, Edward the first and his wife Eleanor, Edward III, above his tomb are his shield and sword, Henry V, above whose tomb hangs his armour, in the helmet of which is a gauntlet made by a French battle axe, Oliver Cromwell, etc.

In the poets corner are collected memorials of the most famous English authors from Chaucer (1400) to Tennyson (1833.) Among whom are Shakespeare (1616), Milton (1674), Dickens (1870), Ben Johnson.

In another part of the Abbey is to be seen the coronation chair beneath which is a famous stone transferred from Ireland to Scotland in 850 and brought to England in 1296 by Edward I, and has since been beneath the chair on which every sovereign of England has sat when being crowned. And also the Jerusalem Chamber, so named from the colored glass which decorates it. This chamber possesses historic interest as being the meeting place of the Westminster Assembly of Divines in 1643, also of the translators of the authorized version of the Bible in 1611 and of the revised version in 1879.

The Houses of Parliament are 900 feet long and 300 wide, on the side facing the river are statues of Kings and Queens from William the Conqueror to Victoria. The bell (big ben) in the Clock Tower weighs 9 tons.

The interior of the House of Lords is lighted by 12 painted windows with portraits of the Monarchs of England. The House of Commons is less richly ornamented than that of the Peers. In the Ladies' gallery is an elaborate lattice work which prevents them from being seen. In the Victoria gallery are two paintings, each 45 feet long and 12 feet high, the death of Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar and Meeting of Wellington and Blucher after the battle of Waterloo. The Prince's Chamber is artistically decorated, three painted windows show the Rose, Thistle and Shamrock.

Another place of great interest was the Polytechnic Institution in which are all sorts of inventions both for amusement and instruction. Here we got into a large diving bell and were let down into the water a long way, the air being pumped into this bell by means of tubes keeps the water out and also gives the occupants a supply of fresh air.

Next comes Madame Tussaud's great wax work exhibition of distinguished characters. Here are to be found Kings Queens and a large number of noted men and women, looking natural in the costumes of their times.

In another room are valuable historical relics bought by Madame Tussaud; viz. the three Coronation robes worn by George IV, also his sword, a coat worn by Lord Nelson at the battle of the Nile and a coat of the Duke of Wellington, Emperor Napoleon's military carriage captured at the battle of Waterloo; also the gullotine on which 22,000 persons were beheaded during the French revolution.

In another part of the city is the Albert memorial. Its four corners represent the four great divisions of the world, viz., Europe, Asia, Africa and America. Around the statue of the Prince Consort which stands in the centre of the Memorial are 160 marble figures representing some of the chief musicians, painters, sculptors and architects, poets, etc.

An interesting spot to Methodist is that of the City Road Chapel, where the great John Wesley preached. It is a simple, unpretentious structure, having monumental busts of the fathers of the Methodist Church. Hon. Senator Sanford of Hamilton, Ontario, has

lately placed a Canadian memorial window here. In the graveyard are buried Wesley and 5,000 of his converts and followers.

The following places I visited, but will only mention: The British Museum with its Antiquities, South Kensington Museum with its works of art, National Gallery of Famous Paintings, Crystal Palace, Blind Institute and Guildhall. Saw the Oxford-Cambridge boat race, walked through the tunnel under the Thames River, and paid threepence to climb 345 steps to the top of the monument Fish Street Hill. At Smithfield saw the Martyrs Memorial, it marks the spot where the stake and faggot were built up. Saw the trooping of the colours in St. James' Park, a good time to see Her Majesty's soldiers. Was at Covent Garden Market, at 6 a.m., the streets were blocked with produce from all parts of the globe, also visited the great Billingsgate Fish Market where they auction off the fish, amid great noise. But the greatest curiosity is the street Vendors crying out with their own peculiar cry about almost everything which can possibly be in demand.

In the Zoological Garden are to be seen live animals and birds from all parts of the world. Here you can have a ride on the elephant or camel, see the hungry lions fed, and gaze at the ridiculous antics of the monkey.

A good place to see the rank and fashion is in front of Buckingham Palace and St. James' Palace on a Drawing-room day. At Hyde Park one may see the most noted people in London riding and driving. Piccadilly and Regent streets are the fashionable shopping streets. Now, take a stroll through Seven Dials, Drury Lane, Whitechapel, etc., where poverty and vice is every where apparent.

What a contrast to get from these places into the suburbs. A ride on the river may be enjoyed for a penny a mile. Here we see Hampton Court where Henry the VIII lived, and also Queen Elizabeth. In one room are portraits of a large number of court beauties.

Near here is the ancient town of Kingston where the Saxon Kings were crowned on a stone block which is still on exhibition.

I next visited Brighton, a fashionable sea-side resort. Here is the Royal Aquarium, said to be the largest in the world, which is a building in which are large tanks of water, and here are kept all sorts of fish and monsters of the deep. The country between Brighton and London is very pretty, the flowers and hedges around the farm houses adding greatly to the beauty of the scenes and putting our Canadian rail fence in the back ground.

Passing the maze of docks and ships on either side of the river from London Bridge we reach Greenwich, here I visited the Palace, this vast pile with its river front of 300 feet bears the impress of successive Sovereigns from Henry VIII, to George III, when it became the home of 2,700 disabled sailors. Here is the Observatory from which the time is signaled to all parts of the United Kingdom.

Now about the London fog: It gets so dense at times that it is almost impossible to get through the streets. Many accidents happen and thieves have a regular harvest in one of these fogs, as they can snatch anything handy and make off with it in the dark. Farewell to old London and now for BONNIE SCOTLAND.

The country has a very different aspect to that of England, being wilder and more mountainous. In historic Edinburgh I saw Hollyrood Palace, here is still to be seen Mary Queen of Scots' bed with all its costly drapes, next the house of John Knox the reformer, and the Castle were James VI. was born. At the village of Shotts I enjoyed the novelty of going down a coal mine. Thence to busy Glasgow, seeing the principal places of interest. "All aboard," and we were viewing the great ship building along the Clyde river to Greenock, after stopping at Moville (North of Ireland) to take on more passengers, there were the interesting shores of the Emerald Isle, with so much of history surrounding it. Our return trip was a stormy one. One of the pleasures of going abroad, is that of coming home again; and one of its most important lessons is that no land under the sun furnishes for the average mortal happier conditions of existence than our own Canada.

I remain yours,

W. PENNINGTON.

Ottawa, Canada.

Over £10,000,000 sterling is spent every year in charity in the United Kingdom.

Out of 240,000 domestic servants in London 10,000 are always out of employment.

A Song of the Empire.

'Tis grand to be a Briton born,
And hear the Briton's name,
For side by side our sires have died
In battle's smoke and flame,
They fought for England's glory,
And with her flag unfurled,
Their hearts and hands have made our lands
The girdle of the world.

'Tis grand to be a Briton born,
And speak the British tongue,
Which loud and clear, like English cheer,
From honest hearts has sprung;
And over ocean's thunders,
Which roll since time began,
Our deathless speech the world will teach
The brotherhood of man.

'Tis grand to be a Briton born,
And read how fierce and bold,
In battles long, to right the wrong,
Our fathers fought of old;
They broke the power of tyrants,
They set the poor slave free,
And badly fared the foe that dared
Oppose their liberty.

'Tis grand to be a Briton born,
And crowned with glories past,
With main and might, to champion right
And weld the Empire fast,
In vain the tempest thunders,
In vain the dark sea part,
The world's great flood of English blood
Beats with a single heart.

-F. G. Scott.

PAGES OF BRITISH HISTORY.

Historical Battles—Noteworthy Events in the Story of the Creation of the British Empire.

TRAFALGAR, 1805.

We briefly relate the story of the most glorious and decisive victory ever won by the English navy—TRAFALGAR—the name of which must ever stir a chord in every English heart; and yet, with all its glory and renown, a name fraught with sadness; for there, in the zenith of his fame, fell our gallant and immortal NELSON, the idol of our sailors and the whole English people—he who had so often led our fleets to battle, but never to defeat.

Nelson was appointed to command the fleet destined to extinguish this allied force of France and Spain; and Lord Barham, on handing him the list of the Royal Navy, desired him to choose his own officers.

"Choose them yourself, my lord," was the noble reply of Nelson; "the same spirit actuates the whole profession—you cannot choose wrong!"

On the 14th of September he reached Portsmouth, and endeavoured to elude the populace by taking a by-way to the beach; but crowds collected, pressing forward to obtain a sight of the one-armed and one-eyed hero. Many were in tears, and many knelt down and blessed him as he passed. "England has had many heroes," says Southey; "but never one who so entirely possessed the love of his fellow-countrymen as Nelson."

The 20th of September saw him off Cadiz, with a fleet ultimately consisting of thirty-three sail; the Victory leading the van, the Royal Sovereign the rear.

On the 19th of October, at 9 a.m., H.M.S. Mars, which formed the line of communication with the in-shore scouting frigates, signalled that the fleets were leaving Cadiz. At two o'clock came the signal that they were at sea. At night our fleet kept under sail, steering south-east. At daybreak the fleets of France and Spain, were distinctly visible from the deck of the Victory, formed in close line of battle ahead, but four leagues to leeward, and standing to the south.

Our fleet consisted of twenty-five sail of the line and four frigates; theirs consisted of thirty-three, and seven frigates. Their force in weight of metal and number of men far exceeded ours, beside the usual numbers of the crews 4,000 select riflemen were on board.

THE DAY OF BATTLE.

And now we come to the great and terrible day of the battle, when, as it has been so well expressed, "God gave us victory, but Nelson died!"

He came on deck soon after daylight on the 21st of October, which was a festival in his family, as on that day his uncle, Captain Suckling, in the Dreadnought, with two other line-of-battle ships, had beaten off a squadron consisting of four French sail of the line and three frigates.

Nelson signalled to bear down on the enemy; and then retiring to his cabin, penned that fervent and well-known prayer, in which he committed the justice of his cause and his own safety to the overruling providence of God.

He next, in writing, bequeathed Lady Hamilton, whom he loved with a devotion so singular, and his daughter Horatia to the generosity of the nation. "These are the only favours," concludes this remarkable document, "I ask of my king and country, at this moment when I am going to fight their battle. May God bless my king and country, and all those I hold dear! My relations it is needless to mention; they will, of course be amply provided for."

He put on the full uniform which he had worn at Copenhagen. Upon its breast were the many decorations he had won, and among them was the Star of the Bath.

"In honour I gained them," said he, when remonstrated with on the peril of this display, "and in honor I will die with them."

"I was walking with him on the poop," says Captain Blackwood, in his interesting Memoirs, "when he said, 'I'll now amuse the fleet with a signal; and he asked me if I did not think there was one yet wanting. I answered that I thought the whole of the fleet seemed clearly to understand, and to vie with each other who should first get nearest the Victory or Royal Sovereign. These words were scarcely uttered, when his last well known signal was made—

ENGLAND EXPECTS EVERY MAN TO DO HIS DUTY."

"Now," said Lord Nelson, "I can do no more. We must trust to the great Disposer of events, and the justice of our cause; I thank God for this great opportunity of doing my duty."

And in this spirit did Nelson, whom the sailors were wont to say "was as mild as a lamb, yet brave as a lion," bear on towards the enemy.

According to Collingwood's despatch, "the enemy's line consisted of thirty-three ships, of which eighteen were French and fifteen Spanish." With the English, Nelson led the weather column, and Collingwood the lee. Nelson's squadron steered two points more to the north than that of Collingwood, in order to cut off the enemy's escape into Cadiz; the leeward line was therefore first engaged.

"See," cried Nelson, exultingly, pointing to the Royal Sovereign, as she cut through the enemy's line stern of the Santa Anna, a Spanish three-decker, and engaged her at the very muzzles of her guns, on the starboard side; "see how that noble fellow Collingwood carries his ship into action!"

In the first heat of the action, Mr. Scott, Nelson's secretary, was killed by a cannon-ball, while conversing with Captain Hardy. Captain Adair, of the Marines, who fell soon afterwards, attempted to remove the mangled body, but it had already attracted the notice of the admiral.

"Is that," said he, "poor Scott who is gone?"

The Victory now became totally shrouded in smoke, except at intervals when it partially dispersed; and, owing to the want of wind, was surrounded by the ships of the enemy.

As the enemy's line could not be broken without running foul of one of their ships, "Which shall I take, my lord?" asked Captain Hardy, to which Nelson replied—

The helm was then ported, and the Victory run with terrible force on board the Redoubtable, at the moment that her tiller-ropes were shot away. Seeing her coming, the crew of the French ship let fly a broadside from their lower-deck ports, and the instant after closed and lashed them, for fear of being boarded between decks. She used them no more during the engagement, but her crew betook them to small-arms; and, like all the other ships of the enemy, her tops were filled with riflemen, who maintained a murderous warfare, by picking off individual, especially officers, in the intervals when the smoke cleared a little.

Twice had the gallant and humane Nelson given orders to cease firing upon the Redoubtable, as he supposed that she had struck, because her guns were silent and she carried no ensign; and it was from this ship, which he twice spared, that he received his death-shot.

A ball fired from the mizzen-top of the Redoubtable, only fifteen yards distant from where Nelson was standing, struck the epaulette on his left shoulder, about, about a quarter after nine, during the greatest heat of the action. It passed through the spine, and lodged in the muscles of the back on the right side. Nelson fell on his face, and on that part of the deck where there yet lay a pool of his secretary's blood; and Captain Hardy on turning round, saw three men—a marine sergeant and two sailors—raising him up.

"Hardy," said he, faintly, "they have done for me at last."

"I hope not," replied his oldshipmate.

"Yes—my back!"

As Sergeant Secombe laid him down the last tiller-ropes had been ordered new ones covered his face, handkerchief, that him so well, might his fate. Through cockpit, which was wounded and the with difficulty to shipmen's berth, discovered that the and though away blood every moment no human skill never lost his presence. Nothing lessen his agony, could do was to and give him less intense thirst; mighty Nelson," with the roar of victory in his dying Great though pressed much and the struggle. As enemy's fleet struck crew of the Victory every hearty huzzah the echoing deed came into his eyes owed, we cannot who says:—

He became impatient Hardy; and as often sent for, Nelson feared that prevented him, "Will no one be must be killed—"

After more than the captain cannot pressed his hand said—

"Well, Hardy with us?"

"Very well," replied he, "I am struck; but five ton of bearing tory."

"I hope non struck."

"There is no confident reply."

"I am a des going fast—it w soon. Come near With a burst ed to the deck, v the wild work o

In fifty minut ed, and taking old friend and co ed him on obtain and that some f struck.

"That is we but I bargaine with something authority, he a anchor" for h would be in s ships being sho near the shoal hinted that the take upon him

"Not while I As Hardy tur him back, and unless the Kin might be laid by He then asked kneeling down, on the forecastle

"Who is th only remaining "It is Hardy "God bless had not left th gone!"

His voice th and after a fe words were he "I have don for it."

The Redoubt fatal shot was of the Victory

Some of th with great b and Bahama had each lost Nepomuceno ships were en with five of the French and their our men co and re-load, ti secure.

The sounds reached the d those fired b enemy, from manoir. In only into the eign as they f that was infu sides into our laying their t they might p ion. "The ards at this