

BARONESS BURDETT-COUTTS

The Great Woman Philanthropist, Who Recently Entered Upon Her Ninetieth Year—Always Lived in London.

One of the most remarkable women conspicuous for good works in two centuries entered upon her ninetieth year on April 21st, says The London Daily Mail. If ever the history of our great metropolis be fully and correctly written the name of the Baroness Burdett-Coutts will probably be found to yield in importance only to that of Queen Victoria.

London has been the sum and centre of all her interests and affections, her home throughout her long life; the home which she has loved, and for which she has worked with heart and brain, with zeal and lifelong devotion.

The daughter and heiress of Sir Francis Burdett, she succeeded also when quite young, through Harriet, Duchess of St. Albans, to the im-



BARONESS BURDETT-COUTTS.

immense wealth (as fortunes anyhow were then measured) of Mr. Thomas Coutts.

Her noble mind and active brain quickly grasped the possibilities, privileges and responsibilities of the situation, and she became the pioneer of the great movement for the establishment of hundreds of various charitable organizations, which taught the rich and powerful something of their duties towards the poor and needy and oppressed, and which made the name of Miss Angela Coutts a household word. It would be impossible to rehearse or even to recall to mind one-tenth of the causes which have engaged her sympathy and opened her purse. They ranged from dinners to destitute children and a loan of £10,000 to the Skibbereen fishermen to the abolition of slavery throughout Africa; from the erection of drinking troughs for tired and thirsty horses to the establishment of Lord Kitchener's College at Khartoum.

The two persons who perhaps entered most closely into the Baroness' long and eventful life were her former governess and constant companion, Mrs. Brown, who lived with her till her death in 1879 and the late Duchess of Teck.

Princess Mary's death in 1897 was a blow from which the Baroness has scarcely ever recovered, and one of the chief happinesses of her late years has been the constant attention and visits paid her by the Princess of Wales and her children.

Her friends have been gathered from every rank and honorable profession, and they range from such bygone celebrities as William IV., Lord Grey, the Duke of Wellington, Lord Palmerston and Princess Lieven down to the little Princess of Wales and three-year-old Baroness Clifton, who, as the youngest peeress in England, was taken the other day to pay her duty to the venerable doyenne of the aristocracy. It is only in the last few years that the Baroness' face has been missed at important first nights.

Her advice often guided Sir Henry Irving in his great career.

The Baroness is one of the few survivors who witnessed the splendours of the costume balls at Buckingham Palace, when her jewels, some of them originally Russian property, provoked the admiring notice of everyone from the late Queen and Prince Consort downwards. She remembers Kingston House a suburban residence, and Kensington Palace a country retreat.

A CHUM OF MELBA.

Miss Clarke, who won the friendship of the famous singer.

Mme. Melba, the Australian song bird, who has just sailed for Europe from Melbourne, has been the recipient of unusual social and public honors from her admiring countrymen during her winter's sojourn in her native land.

Since Mme. Melba arrived in Australia last fall her most constant chum and companion has been Miss



MISS VIOLET CLARKE.

Violet Clarke, the only daughter of Sir George Sydney Clarke, governor of Victoria, Australia. Miss Clarke accompanied the singer on many of her tours and attended her at social functions.

Miss Clarke is herself a singer of exceptional ability. She has a fine contralto voice and by advice of Mme. Melba will soon visit France to study under Marchesi. Miss Clarke is a fine horsewoman and rides every morning, rain or shine, on her favorite pony, Kruger.



Picking Tea Leaves

The delicate top leaves and tender shoots of the tea plant, where the flowers grow, make the most delicious-tasting tea. They do not, like the lower, coarser leaves, contain the woody fibres that secrete the tannin and other bitter substances.

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Ravages of the Sea.

No place has been more transformed by the ravages of the sea than Dunwich, in England. Centuries ago it was a large city, with a fine harbor, and was the capital of the eastern counties. Now it is a little decayed village, with only one church and a few broken down houses. The other sixteen churches have been washed into the sea, and the sole remaining one is now perilously near the edge of the cliff.

Speculation.

A millionaire who died recently in New York left an account book filled with his "speculations" as apart from his legitimate investments. The total purchases and sales for the last three years approximated \$2,000,000. Two hundred and sixty dollars profits remained to the financier's estate. The wonderful part of the story is not that the profits were so small, but that they were so large.

The Louisiana Purchase.

The Louisiana Purchase cost our nation \$15,000,000 in the time of President Jefferson. The Louisiana Purchase exposition to celebrate this purchase to be held at St. Louis in 1904 will cost about \$40,000,000. The ground on which the fair will be held is counted worth \$15,000,000.

Superstitions.

"What! Did you let the examinations go by again, Carl?"
"I'll tell you, father. On the way to the college I met an old woman, and then I turned back again."—Flegende Blätter.

Agreed on One Point.

"But I am so unworthy, darling," he murmured as he held the dear girl's hand in his.
"Oh, George," she sighed, "if you and papa agreed on every other point as you do on that how happy we could be!"

A Hearty Eater.

In a book on gastronomy appears this anecdote of the gastronomic prowess of a Swiss guard in the employment of the Marechal de Villars: "One day the guard was sent for by the marechal, who had heard of his enormous appetite. 'How many sirloins of beef can you eat?' he tentatively asked. 'Ah, monseigneur, for me I don't require many—five or six at the most.' 'And how many legs of mutton?' 'Legs of mutton? Not many—seven or eight.' 'And fat pullets?' 'Oh, as to pullets, only a few—a dozen.' 'And of pigeons?' 'As to pigeons, monseigneur, not many—forty, perhaps fifty.' 'And larks?' 'Larks, monseigneur? Always!'"

Family Relations.

"Who is that man you were just talking with?"
"That's my brother-in-law."
"He looks enough like you to be your own brother."
"He is my own brother. We are twins."
"Twins? Then why did you say he was your brother-in-law?"
"Because he is. I have three brothers—one in law, one in medicine and one in the army."

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