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BOOKFUL OF GOOD STORIES

Mr. Russell Prints His Collection of Anecdotes.

A Few Plums From the Pudding He Has Prepared for British Readers.

All of Them Are Not New, but All Are Good—They Relate to Prominent Persons of the Present and Preceding Generation.

A correspondent writes: The man who chronicles or invents a new story, if it be a good one, is more to be admired than the discoverer of a gold mine. What shall be said then of a man who enriches an entire generation with a bookful of good stories? This is what Mr. G. W. E. Russell, M.P., has done under the pseudonym of "One Who Has Kept a Diary," in a volume entitled "Collections and Recollections." It is a collection of tales about prominent people of this and the preceding generation, and of stories so good in themselves that the personages are immaterial. Mr. Russell has been peculiarly fortunate in a large personal acquaintance with old to whom he describes as "links with the past." It is almost startling to an Englishman of today to be reminded that there still lives, in full possession of all her faculties, a lady that can say her husband was born in Boston when America was still a British dependency. This is the widow of Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst. Then there is Sir Moses Montefiore, who lived to the ripe age of 101, and Capt. Francis Maude, R.N., who died in 1888, and used to say "My grandfather was 12 years old when Charles II. died." Also numbered in Mr. Russell's friends was Mrs. Hoare, who remembered being at a children's party when the dancing was stopped because news had arrived that King Louis XVI. had been put to death again, the sixth Earl of Albemarle, who, though he died but six years ago, had played with Charles James Fox and had fought in Waterloo.

I do not propose to review Mr. Russell's most entertaining book, but, after the fashion of Little Jack Horner and his pudding, I will pull out a few of the plums for the amusement and edification of the general reader. Here, for instance, are a few of the anecdotes of the famous Duke of Wellington, whose "tweeny damns" are proverbial in England.

"When the Queen came to the throne her first public act was to go in state to St. James Palace to be proclaimed. She naturally wished to be accompanied in her state coach only by the Duchess of Kent and one of the ladies of the household; but Lord Albemarle, who was Master of the Horse, insisted that she had the right to travel with her Majesty in the coach, as he had done with William IV. The point was submitted to the Duke of Wellington as a kind of universal referee in matters of precedent and usage. His judgment was delightfully unflinching to the outraged dignity of the Queen, and he made you go inside the coach or outside the coach, or run behind like a damned tinker's dog."

And surely the whole literary profession, of which the present writer is a feeble unit, must cherish a sentiment of grateful respect for the memory of a man who, in refusing the dedication of a song, informed Mrs. Norton that he had been obliged to make a rule of refusing dedications because, in his situation as chancellor of the University of Oxford, and in other situations, he had been much exposed to authors."

Lord Shaftesbury told the following story of his uncle, Lord Melbourne:

"When the Queen became engaged to Prince Albert she wished him to be made King Consort by act of Parliament, and urged her wish upon the prime minister, Lord Melbourne. At first that sagacious man simply evaded the point, but when her Majesty insisted upon a categorical answer, I thought it my duty to reply very plain with her. I said, 'For G's sake, let's hear no more of it; na'm; for if you once get the English people into the way of making kings, you will get them into the way of unmaking them.'"

Very interesting are the anecdotes which throw a distressingly little light on the state of society at the close of the last century, when from all the evidence of notable people who had been in contact with it, Mr. Russell is obliged to conclude that "religion was almost extinct in the highest and lowest classes of English society."

In these days, and even later only 60 years ago, the religious life is an indispensable accomplishment of a fine gentleman, and great estates were constantly changing owners at the gaming table.

Here is a story of the fifth Duke of Bedford:

"One night at Newmarket he lost a colossal sum at hazard, and, jumping up in a passion, he swore that the dice was loaded, put them in his pocket and went to bed. Next morning he examined the dice in the presence of his boon companions, found that they were not loaded, and had to apologize and pay. Some years afterward one of the party was dying on his deathbed, and he sent for the duke. 'I have sent for you to tell you that you were right. The dice were loaded; you waited till you were asleep, went to your bedroom, took them out of your waistcoat pocket, replaced them with unloaded ones and retired!'

"But suppose I had woke and caught you doing it?"

"Well, we were desperate men—and we had pistols."

Such were the manners of high society. As for the morals, such things as morals were not for the great.

"When Lord Melbourne had accidentally found himself the unwilling hearer of a rousing evangelical sermon about sin and its consequences, he exclaimed in much disgust as he left the church: 'Things have come to a pretty pass when religion is allowed to invade the sphere of private life.'"

"Arthur Young tells us that a daughter of the first Lord Carrington said to a visitor: 'My papa used to have prayers in his family, but not since he has been a peer.'"

In a chapter on the "Social Equaliza-

tion," which the author attributes to the influence of the French Revolution, we have a picture of the "typical aristocrat" before the days of leveling. The Marquis of Abercorn died in 1818. But he is revered in Ulster as the "Ould Marquis."

"This admirable nobleman always went out shooting in his Blue Ribbon, and required his housemaids to wear white kid gloves when they made his bed. Before he married his first cousin, Miss Cecil Hamilton, he induced the Prince Regent to confer on her the titular rank of an earl's daughter, that he might not marry beneath his position; and when he discovered that she contemplated eloping he sent a message begging her to take the family coach, as it ought never to be said that Lady Abercorn left her husband's roof in a hack coach."

Talking of the "art or science of domestic sanitation," it is somewhat startling to read in the pages of our diarist:

"Sir Robert Rawlinson, the sanitary expert, who was called in to inspect Windsor Castle after the Prince Consort's death, reported that the Queen's reign, 'cesspools full of putrid refuse and drains of the worst description existed beneath the basements.' Twenty of these cesspools were removed from the upper ward and 28 from the middle and lower wards. Means of ventilation by windows in Windsor Castle were very defective. Even in the royal apartments the upper portions of the windows were fixed. Lower casements alone could be opened, so that by far the greater amount of air spaces in the rooms contained vitiated air, comparatively stagnant."

In his collection of repetitions, Mr. Russell has many old friends, but all are good. Here are a few examples: "Lord Bessborough, in his commendation to the judges' address to the Queen, which had contained the Heep-like sentence: 'Conscious as we are of our own unworthiness for the great office to which we have been called.' 'Wouldn't it be better to say, 'Conscious as we are of one another's unworthiness.'"

"When the German Emperor paid his visit to Leo XIII., Count Herbert Bismarck was in attendance on his Imperial master, and when they reached the door of the pope's audience chamber the emperor passed in, and the count tried to follow. A gentleman of the papal court motioned him to stand back, as there must be no third person at the interview between the pope and the emperor. I am Count Herbert Bismarck," shouted the German, as he struggled to follow his master. 'That,' replied the Roman, with calm dignity, 'may account for it, but it does not excuse your conduct.'"

There is a very amusing chapter on "Fitts." Mr. Russell has a very democratic scorn for these "handlers" by name, and is good-humoredly satirical on the subject. Talking of Irish peacocks, which used to be a cheap and convenient method of rewarding political services, until recent legislation put an end to their creation, he tells the following story of Pitt:

"Pitt, when his banker, Mr. Smith (who lived in Whitehall), desired the right of driving through the Horse Guards' said: 'No, I can't give you that; but I will make you an Irish peer; and the banker became the first Lord Carrington.'"

"What is a baronet? ask some. Sir Wilfrid Lawson (who ought to know) replies that he is a man who has ceased to be a baronet, and has not become a nobleman."

The order of baronets, as Mr. Russell reminds us, grew out of the rebellion in Ulster. When created, each baronet had to pay as much as would maintain 30 soldiers three years at 8 pence a day. "As a historical memorial of their original services, the baronets were given an augmentation to their coats of arms the royal badge of Ulster, a bloody hand on a white field. It was in allusion to this that a famous Whig, on learning that a baronet of his party was extremely anxious to be promoted to the peerage, said to a less coveted Sir Peter Proudflesh with his compliments, that if he wants a peerage he will have to put his bloody hand into his pocket. 'If I don't do these things for nothing.'"

Speaking of "orders," as distinct from titles, we read:

"Of these, of course, incomparably the highest is the Order of the Garter, and its most characteristic glory is that, in Lord Melbourne's phrase, 'there is no nonsense about it.' North of the Tweed, the most ancient and most noble Order of the Thistle is, however, less coveted than the supreme honor of the Garter; but wild horses should not tear from me the name of the Scottish peer of whom he said, 'If I gave it, the Thistle he would eat it.'"

The following is an amusing story of young Prince Alexander of Battenburg, now at Eton:

"Like many other little boys he ran short of pocket money, and wrote an ingenious letter to his august grandfather, Queen Victoria, asking for some slight pecuniary assistance. He received in return a just rebuke, telling him that little boys should keep with their limits, and that he must wait till his allowance next became due. Shortly afterward the undefeated little prince resumed the correspondence in something like the following form: 'My dear grandmamma, I am sure you will be glad to know that I need not trouble you for any money just now, for I sold you last letter to another boy here for 30 shillings.'"

There are some characteristic anecdotes of Lord Beaconsfield. Lord Randolph Churchill vouches for the first:

"Toward the end of Lord Beaconsfield's second premiership, a younger politician asked the premier to dinner. It was a domestic event of the first importance, and no pains were spared to make the entertainment a success. When the ladies retired the host came and sat where the hostess had been next to his distinguished guest. 'Will you have some more claret, Lord Beaconsfield?' said the young man. 'My dear fellow, it is admirable wine—true, but I have already exceeded my prescribed quantity, and the hostess has been in my room. When the party had broken up the host and hostess were talking it over. 'I think the chief enjoyed himself,' said the host. 'Did I know he liked claret?' 'Claret!' exclaimed the hostess; 'why, he drank brandy and water all dinner time.'"

"To Matthew Arnold the great Jew confessor, in the last year of his life, confessed:

"You have heard me accused of being a flatterer. It is true, I am a flatterer. I have found it useful. Everyone likes flattery; and when you come to royalty you should lay it on with a trowel."

"As a courtier Lord Beaconsfield excelled. Once, sitting at dinner by the Princess of Wales, he was trying to cut a hard dinner roll. The knife slipped and cut his finger, which the prin-

cess, with her natural grace, instantly wrapped up in her handkerchief. The old gentleman gave a dramatic gasp and exclaimed: 'I asked for bread and they gave me a stone; but I had a princess to bind my wounds.'"

"When Lady Beaconsfield died he sent for his agent and said: 'I desire that her ladyship's remains should be borne to the grave in the granite of the estate.' Presently the agent came back with a troubled countenance and said: 'I regret to say that there are not tenants enough to carry a coffin.'"

In a chapter headed "Verbal Infelicities" occurs the following delightful piece:

"Mr. Liddon told me of a Presbyterian minister who was called on at short notice to officiate at the parish church of Cranley, but the presence of the Queen, and, transported by this tremendous experience, burst forth in rhetorical supplication: 'Grant that as shepherd I persevere, but to go out with him on the water. The sky was threatening and I declined. At length he invited me, but to go out with him on the water. A squall came on, the boat lurched and my friend fell overboard. Twice he sank and twice he rose to the surface, but each time he was caught by the prow and endeavored to climb in. There was great apprehension lest he should upset the boat. Providentially I had the presence of mind to strike him two or three hard blows over the knuckles. He let go his hold and sank. The boat righted itself and we were saved.'"

"When Lord Dufferin was Viceroy of India he had a sporting servant, or 'shikari,' whose duty was to attend visitors on their shooting excursions. Returning from an expedition one afternoon the shikari met the viceroy, who asked: 'Well, what sort of sport has Lord — had?' 'Oh, replied the shikari, 'I have been hunting the young Lord — God was very merciful to the birds.'"

Mr. Russell does not forget to tell a few stories about children:

"The late Lord —, who had a deformed foot, was going to visit the Queen at Osborne, and before his arrival the emperor, Prince Albert, inquired whether it would be better to warn the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal of his physical infirmity, so as to avoid embarrassing remarks, or to leave it to their own good feeling. The latter course was adopted, and the Prince and Princess did not utter a remark from the royal children, and the visit passed off anxiously but with success. Next day the Prince and Princess were in the garden, and the late Lord —, who was in the garden, said to the Prince: 'Where is Lord —?' 'He has gone back to London, dear.' 'Oh, what a pity! He had promised to show Bertie and me the garden.' 'He has gone back to London, dear.' 'Oh, what a pity! He had promised to show Bertie and me the garden.' 'He has gone back to London, dear.' 'Oh, what a pity! He had promised to show Bertie and me the garden.'"

TINCANS FULL OF GOLD

The Klondike's Remarkable Record of Honesty.

Tents and Cabins With Precious Hoards in Them Left Unguarded Without Loss—Real Estate Speculations at Dawson City.

A Pasadena, Cal., letter says: Lyman A. Gregory, a well-known Pacific coast sportsman, who has been a resident of Trenton, N. J., returned from Dawson City this week, and has much to say of the richness of the Klondike gold fields.

"What do I base my opinion upon?" he said, in reply to a question on the subject. "When in traveling from cabin to cabin, one sees five-gallon coal oil cans filled with gold dust and nuggets of gold. I have seen hundreds of loads of 500 and 600 pounds of the precious yellow stuff brought in by parties of miners from remote camps and deposited where the owners left it. I have seen it in the hands of the rich commercial and transportation companies that have headquarters at Seattle, Portland and Spokane. They have it in their warehouses, and I believe that there is something in the stories of the richness of the Klondike diggings."

"Out on El Dorado Creek—twenty miles southeast from Dawson—there is a settlement of miners who came from Idaho and Spokane. They have among them a fine old building, and I have seen out there literally a galvanized wash tub two-thirds full of gold dust. A man came in and sold me a ton of gold in his travels. I have seen log cabins of the miners out there in that natural storehouse of gold have in them dozens of tomato and fruit cans hidden away in the bunk beds, and in the dirt floors of the cabins and filled with gold. One Norwegian miner, I can't tell you or write, and has a claim on a Junker Creek, showed me last fall a pair of heavy canvas overalls that were his treasure. He had saved nearly 200 ounces of gold in his pockets, and he had hidden the garment so as to make two great heavy bags. I think he must have had 100 pounds avoirdupois of the yellow metal. A man here was a prospector, and he had a claim on a Junker Creek, showed me last fall a pair of heavy canvas overalls that were his treasure. He had saved nearly 200 ounces of gold in his pockets, and he had hidden the garment so as to make two great heavy bags. I think he must have had 100 pounds avoirdupois of the yellow metal. A man here was a prospector, and he had a claim on a Junker Creek, showed me last fall a pair of heavy canvas overalls that were his treasure. He had saved nearly 200 ounces of gold in his pockets, and he had hidden the garment so as to make two great heavy bags. I think he must have had 100 pounds avoirdupois of the yellow metal. A man here was a prospector, and he had a claim on a Junker Creek, showed me last fall a pair of heavy canvas overalls that were his treasure. He had saved nearly 200 ounces of gold in his pockets, and he had hidden the garment so as to make two great heavy bags. I think he must have had 100 pounds avoirdupois of the yellow metal. 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