

LETTER FROM LONDON.

Weekly Correspondence of the Register.

LONDON, Eng., May 18th, 1894.

This is Whitsuntide and the people of England have been devoting themselves to holiday-making. They reckoned, however, without their host, the clerk of the weather, who has sternly set his face against any such frivolous employment of precious time. The merry makers have in consequence had to set about their task under the most gloomy and dispiriting circumstances, and returning from their several outings by land and sea, they remind an observant spectator of nothing so much as a flock of rain-soaked hens. The greatest good humour, however, prevailed on all sides, and it certainly takes something more than dampness, cold and mud, to interfere with an English artizan and business man's enjoyment of a holiday.

The rage for rest and recreation has invaded even the busy precincts of Westminster, the usual habitues of its halls have fled, and chamber and court are for the nonce given over to the dustman and charwoman.

The other day I had the pleasure of being a listener to one of those eloquent and statesman-like addresses with which the Hon. Edward Blake is astonishing and enlightening the public opinion of this country on the great constitutional question to which he is at present devoting those rare abilities which claims the admiration of friend and foe alike. In a subsequent interview with which I was favored I learned much of his eminent public career. His infancy and boyhood, it seems, were spent in what was at that time, the backwoods of Canada. For his early education he was largely indebted to parental training. Showing rather a dislike than otherwise for the ordinary curriculum of studies it was an inestimable advantage to him to be able, like so many other famous men, to acquire instruction in the happiest and best form at home. From very early years he possessed a passion for reading, and gifted with a very retentive memory, often astonished his friends by recalling to their recollection the contents of the volumes he had pored over. When about fifteen years of age he had the advantage of accompanying his father on a visit to Europe, and, being in Paris, was a spectator of some of the most exciting scenes of the revolution that drove Louis Phillippe from the Throne of France. On his return he entered Upper Canada College, but still did not display any particular eagerness for learning. The stimulus afforded by the competition for the Governor-General's Prize first made of him a hard student, and his application was rewarded by his winning the coveted distinction. He finished his education at the University of Toronto, where he was silver medalist in classics, and took the degree of M.A. in 1858. Having determined on following his father's profession he was called to the Bar and soon secured an excellent practice.

This is not the place nor is it my purpose to follow his distinguished public career in Canada, already so well known to your readers. It was with a thrill of joy and gratitude that Irishmen who knew him heard that in response to a call from the land of his ancestors he had resolved to give up home, family and friends and what is, perhaps, more difficult, the associations and ties of a lifetime, and to devote his talents and remaining years to what, at times, seems the almost hopeless task of securing freedom for his beloved Erin. With, as we trust, a long and successful public career before him, the occasion is not one on which to sum up Mr. Blake's distinguishing qualities or characteristics, or to pronounce the final judgment history will render of his career as a statesman. How honourable it

has hitherto been, how remarkable in its sudden transition from a colonial to an imperial sphere of action, is recognized by all who have had an opportunity of following its already lengthened course. The chastenings of experience are good for us all, and especially for those who thus step literally at one bound into a new and untried field of exertion. To this rule the most brilliant intellect, the most cultivated talents, form no exception. But even before entering his present scene of strife and labour in the cause of Home Rule, Mr. Blake had already rendered great and distinguished services to Ireland and her cause, and that country—by no means an ungrateful one—will be proud to acknowledge, should the record of the future fulfil its expectation, the right of his name to a place on the roll of the best and most illustrious of her sons.

Mr. Gladstone has received quite a budget of correspondence on his translation of Horace. Naturally he can not find time or energy to reply to all his critics, some of whom are most unreasonable in their demands. For a young University don to write a letter on the subject of a translation is easy enough; it is quite another matter for a man of Mr. Gladstone's age to take him seriously, or even to enter into an argument with him. I am told that nearly every man interested in the translation of the classics, has sent the late Prime Minister some remarks upon his *Nineteenth Century* article.

In default of news of more immediate importance, I shall no doubt be forgiven if I refer to a rather good story which appears in the German trade journal devoted to the interests of tobacco. It appears that an ingenious but economical smoker, with a weakness for cigars of the best quality, purchased a thousand and forthwith insured them. Then he set to work to smoke them, and having consumed the last, demanded 750 marks from the insurance company on the ground that the whole of the insured stock had been destroyed by fire. The Court decided in his favor, whereupon the company brought an action for conspiracy, accused him of having intentionally put fire to the cigars, and obtained his committal to prison for three months. The story may be true, but then again it may not.

I heard of another incident the other day, which is perhaps as fine an example as could be found of the determination of Englishmen not to be outdone. It occurred on the Western Railway, between Paris and Dieppe. This express, according to the time-table, stops only at Rouen, but the passengers a day or two ago were startled when the locomotive pulled up in the middle of the country near Mantes. Then the guard made for a compartment, from which he had received the signal for stoppage. He found two Englishmen in the carriage, one of whom had lighted his pipe, to the intense disgust of the other, who was a member, doubtless, of the Anti Smoking League. This is what had passed between them: "I bet I'll stop you," said the annoyed one. "No, you won't," replied the offender, whereupon his opponent coolly rang the alarm bell, and the train was stopped. The guard expressed his surprise, but received for reply "Aoh! ce gentleman fumeur son pipe, et il etait dit sur le carton qu'il etait interdit de fumer." "That is all very well," said the guard, "but the notice also says that the belt must not be rung without serious reason. I shall be obliged to draw up a proces verbal." "Aoh! ce m'etait bien egal, je attai en Angleterre directly," was the retort of the enemy of tobacco. Then the train went on, but the determined Englishman was non-plused when he found upon arriving at Dieppe that his luggage was detained as a pledge for his appearance before the authorities when called upon to do so.



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TORONTO POSTAL GUIDE—During the month of May, 1894, mails close and are due as follows:

	CLOSE	DUE.
	a.m. p.m.	a.m. p.m.
G. T. R. East	8.00 7.20	7.15 10.40
O. and Q. Railway	7.45 8.00	7.35 7.40
G. T. R. West	7.30 8.25	12 40pm 8.00
N. and N. W.	7.80 4.20	10.05 8.10
T. G. and B.	7.00 4.30	10.55 8.50
Midland	7.00 8.35	12.30pm 9.30
C. V. R.	7.00 3.00	12.15pm 8.50
G. W. R.	a.m. p.m. noon	a.m. p.m. 9.00 2.00
	6.15 4.00	10.30 8.20
	10.00	
U. S. N. Y.	6.15 12.00	9.00 5.45
	4.00	10.30 11pm
U. S. West'n States	6.15 12 n.	9.00 8.20
	10.30	

English mails close on Mondays and Thursdays at 10 p.m.; on Wednesdays at noon, and on Saturdays at 7.00 p.m. Supplementary mails to Mondays and Thursdays close on Tuesdays and Fridays at 12 noon. The following are the dates of English mails for May: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 1, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 31.

N.B.—There are branch post offices in every part of the city. Residents of each district, should transact their Savings Bank and money order business at the local office nearest to their residence, taking care to notify their correspondents to make orders payable at such Branch Postoffice.

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