

NOTES HERE AND THERE.

A LITTLE discussion on "ethics" was brought to my notice the other day. It arose out of G. W. Smalley's article on "Journalism," in Harper's. The article contained the following anecdote of the late Mr. Delane, the famous editor of The London Times: "He met at dinner Sir William Gull, then the leading physician of London. There was a discussion at table upon the effect of climate on constitutions. 'By the way,' said Sir William, 'Lord Northbrook was asking me to-day whether I thought the climate of India would suit him.' The subject was dropped—no more was said. Mr. Delane drove straight to The Times office, and The Times next morning announced that Lord Northbrook had been appointed viceroy of India. His sole authority was this casual remark at dinner. Lord Northbrook, who was then Under Secretary for War, had not been mentioned as a candidate for the post. To name him was some thing more than a splendid guess—it was an act of courage which success justified. How great a part courage plays in the conduct of a great journal is best known to those who conduct it."

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The comment of one man who heard this anecdote related was that only a cad would print without permission the information given at a private dinner table in all innocence. Another man, with equally strict notions of propriety, retorted that he thought there had been no breach of good faith or good manners committed. What was my opinion? Well, I replied, that considering the circumstances the editor should have investigated the story and got it from the proper authorities before printing it. A great journalistic luminary appeared on the scene at this moment, and murmured that the average newspaper man would pray to be delivered from a similar temptation. Of course, you mustn't analyze a good story. In point of fact Mr. Delane was not dependent on casual remarks at dinner tables for his news. Anyway, the journalist who enjoys the private conversations of the social hour, and then takes a cab to his office to print them before going to bed is a gentleman I would cross the street to avoid. His source for getting news must be limited.

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Mr. Goldwin Smith has just added his testimony to the body of suspicion which already exists relative to the cable news. In The Toronto Sun recently he remarked, under the signature of Bystander: "Our reports of British opinion are coming through American channels, and, unless the Bystander is misinformed, should be taken with some grains of allowance." Make the necessary grains of allowance, and the requisite grains of disallowance, and what is left is a mere skeleton.

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In this issue appear Mr. Moberley Bell's opinions on the question of copyright in news. They are interesting. As to the habit of one paper copying the special despatches of another, it is not confined to one city or one country. A story used to be told in Montreal of a joke which Mr. R. S. White, of The Gazette, once worked off on his contemporaries. The morning papers used to allege that their local news was systematically appropriated by the evening papers. A trap was laid. In the late 70's a large tunnel was being made under Craig street across the city of Montreal. One day the engineer allowed the morn-

ing-paper reporters to inspect the interior of the tunnel. An account of the inspection appeared in The Gazette. The reporter asserted that in a remote corner of an old drain leading into the tunnel a belt was found with this curious inscription:

"Elcitra Siht Laets Lliw Srepap Gniveve Eht."

One evening paper swallowed the whole thing—belt, inscription and all. There was a great laugh among the news-papermen. If you read the letters backwards you will see the hoax.

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Mr. Mulock is getting great praise from the newspapers for his success in carrying Imperial penny postage. He has done good work in the matter, and success has justified the somewhat exceptional methods used to carry it. In a few months, when the big dailies that now thunder his praises add up their payments for postage in Canada, they will not like Mr. Mulock so well. The New York Tribune paid \$23,393 for postage in 1897, and its circulation is not very large, though the large papers issued account for the weight.

C.

LONDON EDITORS AND THEIR VIEWS.

AN English contemporary has been going into the theological up-bringing and beliefs of famous London editors. The London Daily News, which is Nonconformist in sympathy, has for manager Sir John Robison, who is the son of a Congregationalist minister at Witham in Essex. In his youth he was engaged in the office of a stationer and printer, Mr. Wason, of Shepton Mallet, and he was then advised by the Unitarian minister, the Rev. Henry Solly, to study shorthand. He obtained employment on The Inquirer, and afterwards on the evening edition of The Daily News, and has gone on ever since. His colleague, till recently, Mr. P. W. Clayden, was a Unitarian minister in Hamstead, and still occasionally preaches. The present editor of the paper, Mr. E. T. Cook, is a Churchman.

The editor of The Times, Mr. G. E. Buckle, is the son of a clergyman, the Rev. Prebendary Buckle, of Weston-super-Mare. He was married about ten years ago to Miss Harriet Payn, the daughter of Mr. James Payn, the eminent novelist, and has recently had to deplore her loss, after years of delicate health. Mr. and Mrs. Buckle were active workers in the church of the Rev. A. Boyd Carpenter, at Bloomsbury, before they went to live further west. A well-known city clergyman is understood to write the ecclesiastical articles in The Times. The paper is strongly on the side of the Church of England, but deprecates excess in ritual.

The editor of The Daily Chronicle, Mr. H. W. Massingham, was brought up among the United Methodist Free Churches, of which his father was a prominent supporter. His assistant-editor, Mr. Henry Norman, was educated in America for the Unitarian ministry. Since then he has become known for his wide accomplishments, and especially for his deep knowledge of foreign politics. The Daily Chronicle is not attached to any denomination, but urges on all the churches the duty of attending to social questions, and is very largely read by Nonconformists.

The Standard is, perhaps, more read by the clergy of the Church of England than any other paper. It staunchly supports the Established Church. The editor, Mr. W. Mudford, is the son of Mr. W. Mudford, a journalist and newspaper proprietor