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The Weekly Messenger.

THE ENGLISH PARTIES.

The features of recent events in English political life have been more exciting than usual. The week has been marked by an apparent rupture in the Conservatives ranks. Lord "Randy" Churchill, the youthful and impetuous Secretary for India, is again at the bottom of all the trouble. It came about in this way. A great Tory meeting was to be held at Liverpool, at which it was announced Lord Churchill would be one of the chief speakers. The Tory members for Liverpool, it appears, had declined to support the Secretary's Irish policy and Lord Churchill had his revenge by refusing at the last moment to attend the great Liverpool meeting. This incident considerably ruffled the political horizon for a few days and the daring young statesman was the object of many and bitter attacks. The *Standard*, a leading supporter of the Government, was particularly severe on him, describing him as a much overrated, impudent, overgrown schoolboy, only good at insulting his superiors, and that his very ordinary talents were lauded by an interested clique. "It is time to speak out," it concludes, "we will not be imposed upon by this overgrown schoolboy verging on middle age but without a man's sense. Lord Salisbury must decide quickly or Lord R. Churchill, having already worked irreparable harm, will ruin the Conservative party." This was sufficiently strong language but it does not seem to have affected the young member for Woodstock in the slightest. The meeting had to be postponed but the breach has since been healed by Lord Churchill's agreeing to attend a meeting at Liverpool at a future date. The Secretary for India received a great ovation from his friends in the Commons where it would appear he has, notwithstanding his impudence, many followers. Another notable event of the week was the annual Lord Mayor's banquet, which was an unusually interesting celebration. Among the many distinguished guests present were Gen. Lord Wolsely and Sir Peter Lumsden, the celebrated Afghan Commissioner. Lord Salisbury, in replying to the toast of the Government, said that Mr. Gladstone's assurance had been honorably adhered to. He defended the Government against the charge of adopting the Liberal policy and concluded that the extended franchise in Ireland necessitated a change of policy in the direction adopted. In regard to foreign affairs he said it was necessary for the honor of the nation that the Government should continue the policy of the late Government, even though it was opposed to the Conservative policy, but they regretted their inability to continue the threads of the policy left by Lord Beaconsfield. The Government would, however, devote themselves to domestic affairs and the promotion of such a condition of things in the countries in Africa and the East dependent upon England, as would restore cordial feeling among the European powers, which was essential for the prosperity of the world. He eulogized the policy of the late Lord

Beaconsfield in dealing with the Afghan question. That policy was to establish a scientific frontier for India and after that to claim nothing more, but to accept nothing less. He hoped that when the next Lord Mayor's banquet was held Conservatives would be able to show peace with Russia, and the prosperity of Egypt secured. As regards the settlement of the vexed Afghan question, no further progress has been made in the negotiations, the parties waiting for definite information regarding Zulfikar Pass, which is the vital point of the question. While the Conservatives are harassed with divisions within and troubles without the Liberals are quietly but actively engaged in preparing for the elections in November, which are expected to be the most memorable for many years. The tendency of the Liberal party appears to be towards Radicalism and Mr. Chamberlain is daily strengthening his influence with the masses. In a recent speech at Wiltshire, that statesman advised the workmen to press for a reform of the land laws in favor of small life holders. In his opinion the farming grievances in England were as great as those

in Ireland. The time, he said, was coming when a revision of the relations between church and state would be made. The two parties are paying a great deal of attention now to Irish affairs. Lord Randolph Churchill and his supporters among the Conservatives recognize in the Irish party a political force that requires to be conciliated and controlled to ensure Conservative success at the next elections. Mr. Parnell, it is believed, will enter the next Parliament with eighty followers, and it is to the interests of both parties to endeavor to secure this force. Which will succeed is a question the solution of which will be awaited with interest. The November elections will settle this and many other vexed questions.

CHOLERA has appeared in Paris. Americans are going to England or Switzerland. The hospitals are preparing to combat it.

A CRYING EVIL.

When the *Pall Mall Gazette* published its terrible exposure of the sin of London, it was believed in many quarters that the statements were grossly exaggerated. The newspaper then offered to submit the matter to the enquiry of a committee to consist of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Manning and Mr. Morley, M.P. This committee, after a full investigation, makes the following report. "Having been requested to enquire as to the truth of statements printed in the *Pall Mall Gazette* from July 6th to July 10th, we decided from the first to exclude enquiries into charges against particular men, or classes of men, or against the police. We strictly confined ourselves to an enquiry into the system of criminal vice described. After carefully sifting evidence of witnesses and materials before us without guaranteeing the accuracy of every particular, we are satisfied that, on the whole, the statements of the *Pall Mall Gazette* are substantially true." The *Gazette* at once published the report which has considerably strengthened the paper in public estimation. Since the exposures, pressure

ask and read to the House. The British Parliament, as a result of the exposures and the strong public feeling it has caused, has raised the age for the protection of girls to sixteen years. The amendment was carried by a vote of 179 to 71. An amendment providing for the flogging of persons convicted of outraging children was rejected by a vote of 125 to 91. The newspaper exposures, which were condemned by many at first, have consequently not been without their good results.

THE SPREAD OF CHOLERA.

The most alarming reports come from Spain regarding the cholera. The dread pestilence has commenced its ravages in the city of Marseilles, where over fifty deaths occurred in one day. With its teeming life and dense population Marseilles has always been peculiarly exposed to the cholera. Its present visit is not the first. It is something like one hundred and sixty years ago when the streets of Marseilles were choked with corpses and the galley slaves perished as they drove the hearse and none but the Bishop and the Chevalier Rose would consent to bury the dead. The Marseilles of to-day, however, is a great improvement on the Marseilles of old, which was a favorite haunt of epidemics. The old harbor is no longer a sewer and its filth has ceased to stagnate the quays. Fine streets have been laid out, attention has been paid to sewerage and altogether the town presents a renovated appearance. The appearance of the pestilence at Marseilles has naturally caused some alarm in America, as every steamer that arrives at New York from the ports of Italy calls first at Marseilles. Through that city too, comes all the produce that comes from the Mediterranean for consumption in America. The American authorities will have to take strict precautions in order to guard against such a terrible event as the introduction of cholera into this continent.

SIR MOSES MONTEFIORE.

The aged Jewish philanthropist, a sketch of whose life has already been given, was justly regarded as the foremost living illustration of the beauty of a life devoted to sanctified beneficence. While especially interested in his own people his generosity was not confined to them but was abundant in every good direction. His nobleness of character was shown to the end, for his last question was whether there was any duty of charity that he had overlooked, as he moved his hand to indicate that he yet had strength to sign a check. The name of this good and great man will live as long as charity exists.

GENERAL MIDDLETON, who commanded the Canadian forces in the recent North-West campaign, has received well-earned promotion. From being a colonel on half pay, he has been gazetted Major-General in the Imperial Army, and has received, in addition, from the Canadian Government, the sum of \$20,000 as a reward for his services.



THE LATE SIR MOSES MONTEFIORE.