

who come out at that time of the day. In those days of dense fog which we have, the king of day always appears as if he had been entertained by Bacchus the night before. As he treads his way he has a smudgy, dried-up appearance, and on every feature of his face seems to say, "Brandy and soda—quick!"

And now I want to show you the two embankments that have been lately built, and which have added greatly to the beauty of the city. That one on the left, extending up as far as Vauxhall Bridge, is known as the "Albert;" while, if you will look down the river you will see one, on your left, similar to the first, which is called the "Victoria." This last extends as far as Blackfriars Bridge and the Temple, but a curve in the river prevents you seeing the other end of it. The "Victoria" consists of a solid granite wall, 8 feet thick, 40 feet high, and 7000 feet long, and the space gained from the river varies from 200 to 450 feet in width, and amounts to about 30 acres. There is thus afforded a splendid drive and promenade. It is decorated at regular intervals with trees, and gas lamps supported by posts of a very pretty design. It is enchanting to look from this bridge at night, and see how exceedingly beautiful these embankments are lit up—a mighty illumination. These embankments, like the royal personages after whom they are named, are separated only by a river, and the river is bridged.

Yonder are the Houses of Parliament. They are open every Saturday to visitors. I have not space to enter into a minute description, but will give you a few facts about the House of Commons. I think our chamber for the Commons, at Ottawa, much better, certainly it is more commodious, and the members have better desks, than those nature has given them, to write upon. The room here is much too small, both for members and spectators; and on any night of importance there is always a crush for seats. I was present on one occasion during last session, and witnessed the political pugilists in this, the world's great arena. I heard Gladstone make a short speech, but the leader of the Opposition was absent that evening. The members always sit with their hats on, and simply remove them when they rise to speak. (It must come very natural to John Bright.) The seats provided are not separate chairs, but benches, and they have to squeeze out or in. I was struck with the thorough gentlemanly demeanour that pervaded all their deliberations, but a number of the speakers have a tiresome singy way of speaking. I suppose they were high-church men, and could not be blamed. By an announcement, as sudden as an earthquake, we were informed last Saturday morning, that the present Parliament was dissolved, and so, like you in Canada, we are about to pass through a general election. I hope to see the results, and hear what the results have to say, when the next session opens.