

## English Jottings.

The M'Kinley tariff is seriously handicapping Canadian breeders of horses, and some of them who have made a speciality of horses intended for the United States are, I hear, in financial straits. Formerly, the duty was 20 per cent. *ad valorem*; now it is 30 dols. for horses worth under 150 dols., and 30 per cent. on those above that value. These two fixed figures are unfair to the breeder, because he has to pay as much on a horse worth 50 dols. as on one nearly treble the value. The object of the famous tariff seems to have been to tread on as many corns as possible, whether they were part of the anatomy of Brother Jonathan or of his neighbors.

Some interesting experiments have lately taken place in America to prove that horses can perform long journeys as well or better without shoes as with them. Some cavalry and artillery officers made excursions of 540 miles with unshod horses. The animals require no whipping, and did not limp, although the gravel appeared to cause them some pain, but this may have been from the fact that their feet were rendered soft by the use of shoes. A battery of horse artillery also undertook a journey of 300 miles upon horses whose shoes had been removed. After manœuvres extending over nineteen consecutive days, the horses returned in just as good condition as they started. The ground over which they passed was composed, for the most part, of stony country, intersected by macadamised roads. In spite of the rain and the damp ground, the horses seldom slipped, and the animals suffered less on the whole from tender feet than if they had been shod.

Some time ago we prophesied that Sir Edward Guinness was not content with his baronetcy, and had bid the large sum of £250,000 for a barony. It has since been knocked down to him for that sum, and as the price is now fixed, presumably Baron Hirsch will make haste to bid for a similar "honour" in turn, or even to offer a cool million down for an earldom out and out, in order to be on an equality with his little friend the Earl of Dudley. Very soon the brewing peers (whom we may roughly describe as "the beerge") will become so numerous that a brewer who is also a commoner will have the same distinction among his brother Bungs that Lord Castlereagh's plain coat procured for him among the stars and orders of the plenipotentiaries of the Congress of Vienna. Sir Edward Guinness will take the title of Lord Farnleigh. This disposes of the suggestion that he should call himself Lord Model Lodginghouse or Baron Casual Ward which would have had an undoubted significance.

What can be more farcical than to see a stolid and solemn policeman stationed at the entrance of a bazaar, occasionally taking a look around the crowded room, and calmly watching acts which, if done out of doors, would fire his official soul with indignation. At that stall in the corner the most flagrant violations of the Licensing Act are openly committed, or, perhaps, thinly veiled under the sham of selling a biscuit for a shilling and giving a glass of villainous sherry with it. All about the room girls and children are pestering people to take lottery tickets, over the drawings of which the saintly vicar or perhaps the mayor will preside, smiling placidly, and quite oblivious that he has inflicted sentences of ten shillings and costs, or fourteen days, on the poulterer for raffling a Christmas goose, and the greener for raffling a box of Christmas dessert and two bottles of ginger wine, only a day or two before. In a far corner of the room a crowd will be assembled round the mild and facetious curate, who is rendering himself liable to heavy penalties for selling by auction without a license.

Football in the south has for several weeks been displaced by skating. Revels on the ice by night as well as by day there have been in all quarters, and owing to the thickness of the ice there have up to the present been very few accidents. James Smart, the English champion, and the other Fen cracks have been exhibiting their powers in various places, and the former continues unbeaten. In Holland, Donoghue, as I expected, won the international races

for amateurs; whilst at Lingay Fen, J. Woodburn, the jockey, has proved that his skill on skates is almost equal to his cleverness in the saddle, by beating J. Goater, of Newmarket, in the three-quarter-mile contest.

At Amsterdam, Donoghue covered the half-mile in 1 min. 25 3-5secs (4 3-5secs. in advance of his runner-up, Pander, of Haarlem); and the two-mile course in 6min. 10 4-5secs., or 27 4-5s. es. better than the second man, who again was Pander. On the next day Donoghue did the mile in 3 min. 0 2-5 secs. (Pander 3 min. 11 1-5 sec). In the five-mile the American accomplished the distance in the splendid time of 16 min. 1 sec., thus beating the record of 16 min. 16 secs., made by Norseng, at St. Petersburg, early last year. Donoghue skated in such a marvelous style that he would undoubtedly have broken the other records had not the wind been so unfavorable. As in the races preceding the five-mile, Pander was the next best man, his time being 17min. 4 secs.

Amid snow and ice the Cambridge eight has been practising on the tidal water at King's Lynn, the Cam being ice-bound. It must be unpleasant work under such conditions. The Inter-University Race is too far ahead to induce people to trouble much about the composition or the weights of the crew, and criticism at so early a period would be ridiculous.

No better ecclesiastical appointment has been made for many years than that of the Bishop of Peterborough to the Archbishopric of York. Dr. Magee is beyond question the strongest Churchman of the day, and the most eloquent prelate on the bench. He is moreover, a consummate clerical statesman, and in his diocese of Peterborough has been able to keep the two contending parties in the church together with wonderful skill. He knows how to speak precisely the right word at the right moment. Following in the footsteps of Dr. Thomson, he is certainly the very best man possible.

There is no truth in the story that the Battalion of Grenadier Guards, at present quartered at Bermuda, are to be relieved by the "King's" which forms part of the First Infantry Brigade. The "King's" is ordered out to Bermuda, but it is to take the place of the 1st Leicestershire Regiment, which is coming home.

Society in Rome is talking a good deal of an unfortunate incident which occurred at the New Year's reception of the diplomatists given by the Queen of Italy. Two of the youthful Austrian attaches seated themselves before the Queen, and Lord Dufferin, noticing this, sent one of his secretaries to politely warn them of their lack of etiquette—evidently an inadvertence on the part of the young men. The Queen, however, had noticed the breach of decorum, and angry at what she deemed a slight shown her by the Austrians, said audibly to Lord Dufferin, "No! Leave them alone; next year they will find no chairs here." The above incident a Rome correspondent vouches for as accurate, and adds that it is related exactly as it happened. It has been much exaggerated elsewhere, although it is a pity that the chief persons concerned should be two of the "hated Austrians."

Patti, who in Grand Opera is becoming a *rara avis* indeed, is actually announced to give three performances at the Nice Opera. *Traviata* and *Le Barbier* are guaranteed, and the third opera is to be *Lucia* or *Sonnambula*. Patti as *Viioletta* is nowadays a draw of a very pretty value, but the prices have not been fixed as high as for *Otello*, with Tamagno and Maurel, which immediately follows at the Municipal Casino on the 17th and following days of next month. The boxes for *Otello* are priced at £14, notwithstanding which they are already all taken for the first night. Probably people are looking upon the Patti announcement as too good to be true; but as a fact the Opera Direction has played Patti as a trump card to Tamagno.