NOTES AND COMMENTS.

We have, at last, an authoritative account of the answer made by the Chinese plenipotentiaries to the demand for an aggregate indemnity of 450,000,000 taels, a sum equivalent to $315,000,000, if the tael be regarded as equivalent to 70 cents. China proposes to meet this demand by an annual payment of 15,000,000 taels, $10,500,000, for thirty years, beginning with July 1902. To the annual payment the salt tax is to contribute ten million taels, the likin or inland transit dues, two million, and the customs duties imposed on natives in non-treaty ports, three million more. At the same time, the Chinese plenipotentiaries point out that the fulfilment of the proposed agreement would leave their country unable to meet the current expenses of government. They request, consequently, that the customs duties imposed on foreigners in the treaty ports be increased one-third, the additional receipts to be given to China for administrative purposes.

Let us compare these figures with the data set forth in Gen. J. H. Wilson's book on China, which, unquestionably, gives the latest trustworthy account of the fiscal condition of the Middle Kingdom. Gen. Wilson reproduced an estimate prepared several years before the outbreak of the Boxer troubles, which puts the total expenditure for civil and military purposes, including the interest on the public debt, at about $100,000,000. This sum is considerably in excess of the current revenues, which according to Gen. Wilson, do not exceed $51,450,000 in gold. He adds, however, that the deficit is more apparent than real, inasmuch as all disbursements, except for interest on the public debt, are made in copper cash, or in silver, and, if the Treasury does not happen to leave the money on hand, the expenditures are cut down or renounced altogether. From the same authority we learn that about nine million five hundred thousand taels are derived from the salt tax and likin on salt; as much more from the likin on miscellaneous goods and opium, and five million taels from native maritime and inland customs. If, from the total of twenty-four million taels obtainable from these sources, fifteen millions have to be ear-marked for the annual payment on the Boxer indemnity, it is certain that the Pekin Government will be unable to defray the cost of administration, unless its fiscal system, independently of the customs duties imposed on foreigners, should be radically reformed.

Gen. Wilson thinks that, with a resurvey and reassessment of the taxable lands, the proceeds of the land tax could be increased from twenty-seven million taels the present figure, to one hundred and four million. If such a reform be practicable, it is obvious that China could make the annual indemnity payment from this source of income alone, and still leave a handsome surplus for the public treasury. There is no doubt, however, that a considerable amount of time would be needed for such a resurvey and reassessment, and, in the meanwhile, the easiest and quickest way of procuring additional revenue required to meet the indemnity demand would be to increase the customs duties levied on foreigners in the treaty ports. Gen. Wilson expresses the opinion that "with the increase of importations which is steadily going on, and an increase of duty to say 15 per cent. ad valorem in gold, to enable the Chinese Government to indemnify the foreigners for their losses in the Boxer war, the customs receipts could be augmented to one hundred and twenty million taels in gold at an early date." In view of this assertion, it seems but a moderate request on the part of the Chinese Commissioners that the foreign customs be increased by one-third only.

WOMEN GROWING TALLER.

An authority states in a medical journal that the height of a very tall woman was, 50 years ago, 5 feet 7 inches, while now the height averages 5 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 10 inches.

Tom, whom did you say our friend B—— married? Well, he married $200,000; I forget her other name.

10lb of hay are equal as forage to 22lb. of potatoes, 30lb. of carrots, or 50lb. of green clover.

In 1810 every British subject contributed 93s. to the National Exchequer, against about 50s. at present.

London hospital collections on Hospital Sunday are divided among 86 hospitals and 35 dispensaries.

Fustian is the name given to all the heavy cotton or velvet-pile fabrics known as corduroy, moleskin, velveteen, and beaverteen.

This would be a very happy world if people would always wear the expression they do when they are having their photographs taken.

Ethel—Oh, Emily, I had such a dreadful accident the other day. I broke two of my front teeth. Emily—How painful! How did it happen? Ethel, thoughtlessly,—They fell off the sideboard, and I accidentally trod on them.

WILL WED A NOVA SCOTIAN

DAUGHTER OF A WELL-KNOWN AMERICAN GENERAL.

Romance Connected With the Marriage of Dr. McKeen and Miss Flagler, of Washington, D. C.

Washington society has been provided with something of a mild sensation by the announcement of Miss Elizabeth Flagler's forthcoming marriage to Dr. George Wilbert McKeen, of Baddeck, Nova Scotia.

Miss Flagler is the daughter of Brigadier-General Flagler, and was some five years ago one of the belles of the United States capital. She is interesting, not only on account of her wealth and beauty, but also because of the somewhat romantic story that is told about her.

It seems that in 1895 the Flaglers were literally haunted by small boys, who, in spite of numberless warnings, trespassed in the orchard which adjoined their mansion in the suburbs of Washington. As soon as ever a member or servant of the family vanished from sight they would scale the high walls and set to work like little vandals.

One hot August day Miss Flagler happened to be standing behind the drawing room blinds when a negro boy stole over the wall and scrambled up one of the laden apple trees. She seized a small sporting rifle that belonged to her brother with the intention of scaring the urchin. She raised the weapon and fired it.

APPEARANCE IN COURT.

Almost simultaneously something fell from the tree, and when the smoke cleared away the child was found lying on the ground mortally wounded. The coroner's jury exonerated Miss Flagler, but the verdict raised a storm of indignation among the negro residents in the neighborhood; and after a period of considerable agitation the General's daughter was indicted and brought to trial when a verdict of "guilty of involuntary manslaughter" was returned, and Miss Flagler was sentenced to a nominal three hours' imprisonment.

Miss Flagler was a great favorite in Washington society, and her friends planned to receive her with dinners and dances, but she would see nobody and go nowhere.

One day she suddenly disappeared, for she had imposed a sentence of voluntary exile on herself, being determined to renounce the world and its gaieties for ever.

She became a recluse in a little fishing village called Baddeck, in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, where her aim was to expiate what she considered her sin by doing good to the poorest and saddest—mothers who waited in vain for the return of their sons, and wives who were still waiting for the deep waters to give up their long-missing husbands.

By degrees she was able by her untiring kindness and helpfulness to win the complete confidence of these simple fisherfolk, and her services rapidly became so much in demand that she had no time to brood over her trouble.

WHERE SHE MET THE DOCTOR.

And it was while tending the sick that she was first brought back to the world she had left, for it was at the bedside of an invalid that she met Dr. George McKean, a young physician, who had gone to seek experience and practice among the poor of Nova Scotia.

It was but natural that the man of medicines should fall in love with the good Samaritan, whom the grateful village folk were wont to call "the blessed lady." The beautiful, sorrowful-looking lady, who dwelt in a hermit cottage called "The Bowsprit," awakened in him an interest infinitely more absorbing than medicine. So he set himself the task which her relatives and friends had failed at— to entice her back to the larger world she had left.

In the evenings he used to go up to the cottage which Miss Flagler had built on the lonely rocks to consult her about some pet plan or new project in which her help was needed.

And so this romantic wooing went on, until one day Washington society was agreeably surprised to hear that the Brigadier-General's daughter was coming back to the gay, busy world which had not known her for five whole years.

Early in June her return is to be signalized by a brilliant wedding in St. Margaret's church, to be followed by a great reception, at which Washington society will be present. Indeed, Miss Flagler's bids fair to be the wedding of the season.

Romantic as the whole story is, it cannot appeal to any reader half so powerfully as to the heroine of it, who will thus plunge back into the vortex of a society woman's life after an absence of over five years—years spent in leading what has practically been a hermit existence as far as her farmer friends have been concerned. It will probably seem to her as though she had been suddenly awakened from a strange dream; all the events of her life among the fisherfolk of Nova Scotia being compressed into the fancies of a night's slumbers.

NOW THEY ARE MARRIED.

A bashful young man went three times to ask a beautiful young lady if he might be the partner of her joys and sorrows and other household furniture; but each time his heart failed him, and he took the question away unpopped.

She saw the anguish of his soul, and had compassion on him. So, the next time he came, she asked him if he had thought to bring a screw-driver with him.

He blushed, and wanted to know what for.

And she, in the fulness of her heart, said she did not know but that he would want to screw up his courage before he left.

He took the hint and the girl.

PERSONAL POINTERS.

Notes of Interest About Some of the World's Great People.

The Duke of Cornwall and York is extremely fond of fencing as an exercise.

Queen Alexandra has learned many kinds of lace-making, and has made some beautiful pieces to trim the robes of her grandchildren.

The German Empress is said to be one of the most conscientious of Royal diary-keepers, and the daily record no one ever sees, not even the Emperor himself. Each year a new diary is begun, and the old one, with its locked clasp, is put away with the preceding ones in an iron safe.

Mr. Kruger, as everyone knows, is a constant smoker; it is not, perhaps, so well understood that he has only once tasted alcohol in his life. That was at Bloemfontein, after the signing of the alliance with the Free State. Kruger is said to have taken off a bumper of champagne and put down the glass with a face of disgust.

General Colvile, who is the object of so much interest just now, has had many remarkable experiences, voluntary and involuntary, and one of them at least is probably unique. It is one of the voluntary ones—a honeymoon in mid-air! The balloon almost came to grief, but happily the bride and bridegroom arrived safely on terra-firma in the middle of a ploughed field.

Pope Leo XIII. has a wonderful memory. A little while ago he told a surgeon who was attending him that a small scar on his finger was caused seventy-five years ago, when he was a boy, by a ball striking his hand while he was playing a game called "boccia" in the garden of the Palazzo Colonna; and he even remembered the name of the chemist who bound up the wound and the situation of the shop.

Mr. Spencer Charrington, who has lived under five Sovereigns, and is now, at eighty-two the doyen of the British House of Commons, is said to be the most retiring and unassuming of our legislators. He rarely speaks to any of his fellow-members, partakes of his frugal luncheon alone, and generally keeps so modestly in the background that, although he is one of the richest members of Parliament and has refused high honours, his very identity is unknown to many who are accustomed to see him regularly at Westminster.

King Edward has a pretty taste in notepaper. The monogram, which appears in the left-hand corner of the new stationery, consists of an Old English E. In the top portion of the E the crown is worked in the lower part are the Roman figures VII. The E is silver in colour with a black line outside, and both the crown and the figures VII. in black. "Windsor Castle" is stamped in black at the head of the paper. King Edward's favorite paper is hand-made azure-laid post size, with a slight black border. Queen Alexandra, up to the present, has not selected her official monogram. The late Queen's choice in notepaper, by the way, was silver grey.

The Baroness Burdett-Coutts is very fond of all kinds of animals and birds. At her Highgate residence, Holly Lodge, there is an extraordinary collection of them, including goats, llamas, donkeys, robins, cockatoos, nightingales, etc. The Baroness has always done her best among the ladies of her acquaintance to discourage the use of feathers and wings in their headgear; and besides giving much support to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, has actively promoted the introduction of Bills into Parliament having for their object the protection of wild birds.

Admiral Rawson, who is giving up the command of the Channel Squadron, is still young in the sixties, but he has had a long and romantic career at sea. While at the Cape an incident happened which explains the popularity of Sir Harry Rawson with his men. In accordance with custom the officers should have called and signed their names in his visitor's book on one occasion, and many of them failed to do so. The next day the Admiral issued an invitation to dinner to all who had not signed the book, and the delinquents appeared in fear and trembling as to what would happen. What did happen was that Sir Harry Rawson gave them an excellent dinner, told them some excellent stories, and sent them home again in excellent spirits. Not a word was said about the visitors' book, but the silence was more effective than any words, and Admiral Rawson has not had to complain since.

DOG AND KITTEN.

A correspondent sends to the London Spectator the following anecdote:

The servant man of a family took a kitten to a pond with the intention of drowning it. His master's dog went with him, and when the kitten was thrown into the water the dog sprang in and brought it back to land.

A second time the man threw it in, and again the dog rescued it; and when for the third time the servant tried to drown it, the dog, as resolute to save the little helpless life as the man was to destroy it, swam with it to the other side of the pool, ran all the way home with it, and deposited it before the kitchen fire.

From that time the dog kept constant watch over the kitten. The two were inseparable, even sharing the same bed.

REVERSIONARY.

Agnes—He is what might be called a reversionary type of man.

Edith—Reversionary!

Agnes—Yes; it is so easy to make a monkey of him!

ABOUT NAMES IN IRELAND

CURIOUS INFORMATION BY THE IRISH REGISTRAR-GENERAL.

How Surnames and Christian Names Are Produced—The Favorite Prefix — Many Foreign Names Introduced.

The Irish Registrar-General, Mr. Robert E. Matheson, B.L., has just published a little official volume of less than a hundred pages containing some curious information regarding the Irish nomenclature, The title of the book is "Varieties and Synonyms of Surnames and Christian Names in Ireland for the Guidance of Registration Officers and the Public in Searching the Indexes of Births Deaths and Marriages," from which it will be seen that it has been compiled with a practical end in view.

But outside that purpose altogether it is a most interesting, and indeed entertaining brochure. One would not have thought that in Ireland there were fifteen variations of the surname "Alexander," twenty-four each of "Byrne," and "Connolly," and actually twenty-seven of "Connor." Birmingham has twenty as follows: Birmingham, Birminghan, Bremigam, Brimage, Brimagum, Brimmagenn, Brumigem, Brumiger, Brummagem, Brummagen, and the Irish equivalents—Carosh, Corish, Korish, MacFeerish, Magorisk, McGorish, McGorisk. A number of names, on the other hand, have only been variant, such as Bex, for Beck ;Bagster for Baxter; Cruice for Cruise; Wholey, for —Howley, McMaa for McNama; Benbo, Howley, McNaboola, and so on.

THEY FAVOUR THE "O."

It is notable that in some districts a large number of people have added the old Irish prefix "O" to their names. From Armagh it is reported by the register that "those who were formerly known as Neill are now O'Neill; Reilly, now "O'Reilly; Hagan now O'Hagan, etc. Indeed," the registrar adds, "I think every one in my district who by any possibility could prefix the 'O' has done so, and this was only commenced a few years ago, I have known earlier births registered without the 'O,' but later ones of the same family must have the 'O' prefixed." A similar report comes from Mountshannon district; but, on the other hand, the registrar of Broughshane district, County Antrim states that "some families have dropped the 'O,' as O'Hamill, Hamill; O'Kane, Kane; O'Mellan, Mellan; O'Donnell, Donnell; O'Dornan, Dornan."

There is a curious note from the registrar of Moira district regarding the name Lavery. "Of Laverys," he writes, "there are several races in this vicinity, all having prefixes, and all frigidly denying relationship or common descent. They are Baun-Lavery, Bawn, white; Roe-Lavery, Rue, red; Trin-Lavery, and Hard-Lavery. Of these, Baun is the most usually or persistently adhered to, so much so that several people about here are known only by their prefix, as Charley, Ned or Dan Baun. Many people would not know where any of these people lived were you to call them by the name Lavery, without the prefix; indeed, the last-named man in the above samples denies the Lavery altogether."

HOW NAMES ARE MADE.

There are instances of a prefix, such as "Mac," or "Fitz," being substituted for the whole name; while in some cases the name is simply contracted, as in the cases of Free for Freeman, Pender for Prendergast, and Roy for McIlroy and Royston. Variations are also produced, says Mr. Matheson, "by other causes, such as the tendency to assimilate names to those of distinguished persons. One registrar reports 'Nielson' has become 'Nelson,' while another states 'Parlow' has become 'Parnell'."

The greater portion of the changes in Irish surnames, however, is traceable to far-off legislation, chiefly to the statute decreeing that every Irishman dwelling "betwixt or among Englishmen" in certain districts should take an English surname of "one town," "or colour," "or arte, or science, or office." Hence O'Gowan became Smith, "gowan" meaning a smith and so on.

FOREIGN NAMES.

We have a much greater variety of "foreign" names in Ireland than one would have suspected. "In addition to our 'Celtic, Anglo-Saxon, and Norman surnames," writes the Registrar-General, "we find Highland Gaelic names, represented by "MacDougal,' "McGregor," "MacIntosh," Welsh names are found such as "Morgan,' "Richards," "Apjohn.' Danish names appear, as "Dowdell," Drumgoole," "Gould," "Coppinger.' There are many Huguenot names, as "LaTouche, "Du Bedat, "Lefroy, 'Dubourdieu," "Le Fann," "Drelincourt,' "Dombrain," "Crommelin, 'Boileau," "De Blacquiere.— Italian names are represented. as "Bassi," "Ceppi," "Casciani."

We have various German Palatinate names, as "Bovenizor," "Delmege," "Switzer," "Doupe," 'Teskey,' "Shire" and "Moddler." Jewish names are found, such as "Cohen," "Levi," "Aaron," and the Indexes are now showing the result of the recent migration to this country of Jews from Russia in such names as "Robinovitch," "Weiner," "Matufsky," "Hesselberg," "Stuppel," 'Rossin,' "Winstock, "Greenberg," 'Maisel," "Statzumsky," "Coplan," 'Wachman," "Wedeclefsky," and "Fridberg." This little book will be of considerable use to students of Ireland, and no tourist should visit the country without getting a copy to put into his bag.

NO HARM DONE.

Harold—I ran over a man ninety years old yesterday.

Gladys—Didn't you feel awful?

Harold—Oh, no! The old guy hadn't got long to live, anyway.

TRIP IN A SMALL CRAFT

AUSTRIAN OFFICERS AFLOAT IN A SEVENTY-FOOT YAWL.

Many Months on the Orinoco—In a Cyclone on the Atlantic, Which the Adventurers Crossed in Twenty-six Days.

It is now close on to a year ago since three adventurous young lieutenants of the Austrian navy became weary of the restrictions of the quarterdeck and, pining for freedom and adventure, sought leave of absence from their Government and chartering a yacht wandered far.

Remarkable as has been the cruise, the vessel which bore the trio is more remarkable still. She is the Taormina, a seventy foot yawl which was built by Lieutenant Henn just previous to his attempt to "lift" the America's cup with his cutter Galatea. None who saw the tiny craft glide up the river at New York the other day would have ever imagined that she had traced a wake ten thousand miles in length, most of it over the waters of the North Atlantic.

PLENTY OF COMFORT.

There is no dignity in forty tons, but there may be plenty of room for comfort if one knows how to economize in space. These three Austrians apparently do, for the interior of their little craft is as cosy as can be imagined. Ample space was found for storing sufficient quantities of provisions and water, and as the yacht has ten persons in all, the three lieutenants, five seamen, a cook and steward, considerable quantities of water and provisions had to be carried, but the yachtsmen made shift to stow away all that was needed.

The men who engaged in this adventure are Count von Colleredo-Mansfeld, who holds the rank of lieutenant, and Lieutenants Pachner and Dolenc.

"To begin with" said the Count, we sailed from Austria in August, skirted the coast to Gibraltar, called at Teneriffe, and then set out across the Atlantic, making Trinidad in twenty-six days. Had it not been for a cyclone which we met half way we would have made the trip in much less time, but that kept us hove to for a matter of a week. Anything carry away? Oh, no! She is a staunch little thing and as buoyant as a duck What we did was to heave her to and let her ride it out, and that she did in fine style.

MONTHS ON THE ORINOCO.

"From Trinidad we went to the mouth of the Orinoco and ascended the river for a distance of 230 miles. We spent two months on the river and came very nearly spending six. The way that came about was this: The river rises to an abnormal height during the rainy season, and then recedes so fast as to leave half of its shoals and bars above water. We had crossed one some two hundred miles from tidewater, when upon returning from a hunting excursion we noticed that the river had commenced to fall.

"We hastily got up anchor and went down stream, and were not an hour too soon. As it was we touched on the bar and might have been high and dry by this time only for quick work in getting the boats out and lightening the yacht sufficiently to get her over. The high water does not make again until May, so it was rather a close call.

"From the Orinoco we went back to Trinidad, thence north to Martinique, then back to La Guayra, and then to the Virgin Islands where we spent several weeks cruising about the haunts of the old pirates and filibusterers, then to St. Thomas and Puerto Rico, and a cruise among the Bahamas, where we caught three northers in succession.

GOOD RUN FOR A SMALL CRAFT.

"On the run from Nassau to Jacksonville the Taormina showed what she was able to do when she wanted to in the way of fast going. We slipped out of port with a spanking south east wind at our heels, and two days later we had let go our anchor off Jacksonville, a run of 430 miles, in forty-eight hours. Rather good, isn't it, for a little craft of this sort?

"From Jacksonville we went to Savannah, thence to Charleston, Baltimore and Annapolis, which was our last port. At Annapolis we visited the Naval Academy, and were of course very much interested in the institution. We will remain in New York a few weeks, then cruise to the east'ard and return in time to see the yacht races.

"Then we will go home by steamer, as our furloughs are up in September and although the yacht is fast she does not travel on schedule time, and therefore might not get us back soon enough."

A KING'S ADVENTURE.

Royal Party Charged With Defrauding the Railway.

An adventure of the King of the Belgians is making the rounds of the Italian papers, writes a Rome correspondent.

His Majesty, with his secretary, and two ladies, took four first-class return tickets in the "direct" train from Bologna to Modena, and after the day's outing, they returned, not by the "direct" train, as they should have done, but inadvertently by the "express," the fares of which are much higher than those of the "direct.'

The secretary delivered the four "direct" tickets at the door of the Bologna station, and he and his companions were immediately stopped and charged with an attempt to defraud the railway company. The King was naturally greatly annoyed at this contretemps, and was eventually obliged to reveal his identity to the stationmaster to avoid arrest and a police case.

The thermometer is a poor thing at which to warm your hands.

FROM BONNIE SCOTLAND.

INTERESTING NEWS FROM SCOTLAND'S BANKS AND BRAES.

He Has Reached a Good Old Age—Glasgow and the Liquor Traffic—Death of One of Baden-Powell's Men, &c., &c.

Mr. Alex. Ewing, long a respected resident in Dumbarton, has reached his hundredth birthday.

Great draughts of herring have during the past few days been caught off the Haddington coast.

The Rev. Peter Mearns, Coldstream, died recently in the 84th year of his age and 54th of his ministry.

Leith will have a £2,000 statue of Queen Victoria, the site for which has been selected at the foot of Leith Walk.

The Scottish Office has refused to permit the body of George Johnston, the Fife millionaire-hermit, to be exhumed.

Out of 55 cases of infectious disease in Southend, 25 were, in the opinion of the medical officer of health, due to the eating of shellfish.

Major Matheson, proprietor of the Lewis, is introducing young stags from England for the improvement of the various deer forests on the island.

The Glasgow "Municipal Public House" scheme is receiving the united support of the labor organizations and the united opposition of the "trade."

The example of Glasgow in seeking to run the liquor traffic under perfect municipal control and ownership is extended to various parts of Renfrewshire.

Earl Aberdeen inspected the Edinburgh Battalion Boys' Brigade within the Merchiston Castle Collegiate grounds. More than 1,000 boys were on parade.

An effort is being made that cottages, rather than tenement houses, be erected on the Glasgow municipal land near Alexandra Park, for occupancy by workingmen.

A sensation has been caused in Aberdeen by the issue of a warrant for the arrest of Mr. J. M. Ferguson, a prominent advocate, for the alleged embezzlement of trust funds.

Auchtermuchty has a modern Samson. He lifted four gates off their hinges and left them lying on the roadway. He did it for fun, but had to pay 30 shillings for the caper.

Mr. Thomas Brand, one of the now rapidly diminishing band which formed the "Thin Red Line," has died in Aberdeen, in his 72nd year. He joined the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders in 1844, at the age of 16 years.

On the lapse of the period of mourning, it is reported that the King and Queen will revive certain of the old Scottish customs and court ceremonies associated with the Holyrood Palace. The report has caused the greatest satisfaction in Edinburgh.

Some little flutter was caused in Glasgow when the news leaked out that Mr. James Wilson Dick, formerly a magistrate of the city and an ardent temperance reformer, had been arrested on a charge of soliciting and accepting a bribe of £600.

The body of a man was washed up recently on the beach opposite Broadsea, near Fraserburgh. The head was gone, as also were parts of the arms and legs. The remains were identified as those of J. McGregor, a young man, a cooper by trade, son of John Donald McGregor, who went amissing Dec. 31st last.

Information has been received of the death at Mafeking, on Feb. 16, of Alexander C. Fraser, a native of Abriachen. Deceased, who was only 27, was in the employment of Messrs. Macdonald & Macintosh, merchants, Inverness. At the outbreak of the war he was among the first to join Baden-Powell's volunteer force in defence of Mafeking. He helped to capture Commandant Eloff.

The body of the Rev. Malcolm McColl was taken out of the Crinan canal at Ardrishaig recently. The deceased was last seen shortly after ten making his way home to the manse along the banks of the canal, and as his hat was found in the canal in the morning, trawling operations were begun, with the result that the body was found where the hat was seen. The deceased was minister at Ardrishaig for about twenty years, but resigned quite recently.

KING ALFRED'S CASTLE.

Castle of England's First Great King in Good Preservation.

The millenary of King Alfred is being celebrated in England just now by a large number of enthusiasts and Arundel Castle, in the quiet little town of Arundel, is coming in for a considerable share of public attention. In King Alfred's will appears the first mention of Arundel. The quaintly pretty old castle keep was one of the good sovereign's favorite country houses. To this there can be no doubt. The castle itself is referred to at some length in the Domesday Book and was considered of great importance by William, the Conqueror, who bestowed the estate on one of his friends. While Arundel was the residence of Henry the First's widow, Empress Matilda, made it her headquarters for some time and there is believed to have asserted her claim to the British throne.

The castle is architecturally handsome and commands a magnificent view of the surrounding country. From its windows can be seen many sylvan scenes of exquisite beauty stretching out between Chichester, Selsey, Bangor and Tittlehampton.

Hobson—Do you know, I started in life as a barefooted boy! Jimson—Well, I'll tell you I wasn't born with shoes on.