

## War on the Peers.

No Modification of the Popular Verdict.

The Queen's Speech and Parliament's Programme Arranged.

A Number of British Officers and Sailors Killed in Africa.

Six Life-Savers Drowned While Trying to Rescue a Crew in Distress.

Train Blown Off the Track and 50 People Killed—An Anarchist Author Gets a Heavy Sentence.

### Sicily Shaken.

PALERMO, Feb. 25.—Slight earthquakes have been felt throughout Sicily several times during the past week.

### Capri's Birthday.

BERLIN, Feb. 25.—Chancellor von Capri yesterday celebrated his 63rd birthday. The Emperor presented him with three green glass vases inscribed with the imperial arms.

### Six Life-Savers Lost.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—Three officers and three men belonging to the coast guard crew at Inverness, Scotland, were drowned by the swamping of a boat on Friday, while attempting to rescue the crew of a vessel in distress.

### Terrible Destruction of Grain.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—An immense warehouse at Rotherhithe, a southeastern suburb of London, was burned this evening. Thousands of tons of grain poured from the storehouses into the Thames. Loss, \$600,000.

### Heavy Penalty for Writing a Book.

PARIS, Feb. 25.—Jean Graves, an Anarchist of letters, was tried yesterday for having published a book entitled "Société Mornate," which it was charged contained matter calculated to incite to revolution and overthrow existing institutions. Graves was sentenced to two years in prison, and to pay a fine of 1,000 francs.

### Blew a Train Away.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—A dispatch from Port Louis, Mauritius, reports that a cyclone swept the island doing almost incalculable damage to property, killing and injuring many persons. A crowded railway train was blown from the track, rolling down an embankment into the Coromandel River, killing 50 persons and injuring a large number of others.

### Shocked the Boerse.

BERLIN, Feb. 25.—The financial proposals of Signori Crispi and Sonnino have given the Boerse a shock. Italian five, which are largely held here, have dropped 3 per cent. Political circles are also disappointed over the disclosure of Italy's financial weakness. The proposed clipping of five under conversion, into 4 per cent, is held as a breach of faith with the holders of the bonds.

### Ontario Wins Again.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—The judicial committee of the Privy Council gave judgment yesterday declaring the Ontario act respecting assignments and preferences by insolvent bankrupts to be valid.

This is a victory for the Ontario Government, and reverses the judgment of the Supreme Court, which awarded in favor of the Dominion Government's contention that such legislation was ultra vires of the Province of Ontario.

### Discount Rates.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—The rates of discount last week were 1½ for 3 months and 1 for 30 days. Gold was plentiful and further shipments from Africa and Australia were expected to arrive. Silver fell. It will be difficult to find any market at all for it, as India is likely to cease purchasing. On the Stock Exchange investment stocks were higher, but speculative investments still were inconsiderable. Consols rose ½, the highest record since the conversion. Trading in American railroad securities were almost stagnant.

### To Boycott Land-Grabbers.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—John Morley, Chief Secretary for Ireland, has refused to receive a deputation from the Evicted Tenants' Association. He based his refusal on the ground that the Government had decided to introduce a reinstatement bill in the next session of Parliament. The Evicted Tenants' Association of Cork resolved yesterday to return to the principles of the land league. The association appointed a vigilance committee to render more effective the boycotting of land-grabbers.

### Victoria Woodhull Martin's Case.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—The trial of the action of Mrs. Victoria Woodhull Martin against the trustees of the British Museum for holding in their possession books libeling her character, was resumed in the High Court of Justice yesterday. Mrs. Martin took the witness stand and retold in her vindication the story of her relations to the Beecher-Tilton scandal.

### War on the Peers.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—The Daily News enumerates in a leader thirteen charges against the House of Lords. All these concern the mutilation or rejection of reform proposals during the present Parliamentary session.

"The rapid growth of the popular agitation against the House of Lords," it comments, "is evinced by daily meetings. We are now face to face with one of the very gravest problems of our constitutional history. This odious institution of hereditary legislators cannot possibly continue to have a place in free government."

The News says that Lord Salisbury will advise the Lords not to insist upon any critical amendments to the Parish Councils Bill, except those relating to the affairs of the various charities.

Many Liberals favor the immediate dissolution of Parliament in case the Lords adhere to their amendments of the Parish Councils Bill. The Daily News deprecates such a course as virtually giving the victory to the Peers.

The Daily Chronicle enthusiastically clamors for this line of action, and says: "Mr. Gladstone, let us go on! Lead us, if you can; but anyhow, let us advance!"

**British Parliamentary Programme.**  
LONDON, Feb. 25.—The Cabinet prepared at its meeting the Queen's speech, and decided at the same time on the order in which the Government measures will be introduced at the next session. This sequence of bills was determined on: Registration reform, Irish evicted tenants, Welsh disestablishment and local option.

The difficult financial question which will arise from the budget deficit and simultaneous increase of naval expenditure will fill out the programme, which will be so voluminous enough to protract the session far beyond the usual limits. The retreat of the Peers will undoubtedly moderate the popular movement to abolish them. Nevertheless, the whole Liberal party, while not sharing the eagerness of the Radicals for immediate action, have now determined that the power of the Peers to control Parliamentary legislation must cease. Out of deference to Mr. Gladstone, the Liberal party may continue to give home rule the first place on its programme, but the question of the Peers will be regarded as the most vital and urgent issue of the hour.

The Speaker has broached a plan which was suggested by several Cabinet Ministers, and approved by many Liberal Members. The plan is as follows: The power of the House of Lords to veto bills passed by the House of Commons shall cease. The House of Lords may continue its revisory and suggestive functions, may even initiate legislation, but when a bill once amended shall be returned by them to the Commons the decision of the Lower House shall be final. In the event that the peers absolutely reject a bill sent up by the Commons, the Lower House may re-affirm the measure by resolution, and thus override the objection of the Upper House. There are five peers in Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet, and none of them would support a measure to overthrow the Upper House. Three of them, however, while prepared to stand by their class, are known to be willing to reform the Peers. The Ministers in question are the Earl of Rosebery, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; Lord Herschell, Lord High Chancellor, and the Earl of Kimberley, Secretary of State for India. The leaders of the movement against the Lords have arranged for two popular demonstrations in Hyde Park. The Trades Union Council will hold meetings on March 18, and the House of Lords Abolition League will have processions and meetings on Easter Monday.

The Chronicle is authority for the statement that Lord Salisbury's attitude in regard to the Employers' Liability and Local Government bills has aroused a strong feeling of opposition to his course on the part of the Queen and the Prince of Wales. The reigning family, the Chronicle adds, has always taken a common-sense view of its own interest, and more than once has exerted its influence to prevent the Peers from engaging in a conflict which might have its end in totally readjusting the constitution.

### British Reverses in Africa.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—The rumors in circulation based on dispatches from Bathurst, West Africa, that a number of British officers and sergeants had been killed in battle with slave dealers on the west coast, are confirmed by official dispatches. The cruiser Raleigh, the flagship of the British squadron on the West African coast, commanded by Rear Admiral Frederick C. D. Bedford, and the screw gunboat Widgeon, commanded by Lieut. Commander William J. Scumard, arrived on Friday at Bathurst, capital of the British West African colony of Gambia, and the rumor soon spread that the sailors had been badly handled in an encounter with the slave raiders.

Later it was stated that landing parties from the ships had been sent ashore in order to punish Chief Fodisilah, a notorious slave dealer, who has been carrying off into bondage a severely ill-treating the help of a number of villages along the coast. The British sailors are said to have landed in force and to have marched inland, where they met with a severe reverse, losing three officers and ten men killed and 40 wounded.

Further details of the disaster to the force of British big game hunters landed near Bathurst was composed of men from the flagship Raleigh and from the gunboat Widgeon. The landing parties went ashore fully equipped for a march inland and for remaining ashore some time. Several machine guns were taken ashore and the landing parties carried provisions for four days and an ample supply of ammunition. A reserve force was kept on the landing place, which was thoroughly protected by the guns of the cruiser and the gunboat. After the big-jackets and marines had landed the column began its march inland. But owing to the nature of the country—swampy land, thick bush-wood and forest—the advance and flanking parties were soon compelled to practically fall back upon the main column, which pushed forward in this manner for the interior.

For a long time after commencing the march inland little or no signs of natives were to be seen; in fact the coast in the neighborhood seemed to have been deserted. But when the British force had advanced well inland, and were surrounded by thickly wooded country with rising land on both sides, the natives, who had been hired to carry the spare ammunition, provisions and water, began to desert and eventually the whole lot of them disappeared. The British force, however, seems to have continued its march inland and to have been eventually led into an ambush, for files were suddenly opened upon it from all sides and the sailors were killed before they were able to make any effective use of the machine guns. Chief Fodisilah is a notorious and desperate slave owner, well known on the western coast of Africa. His force was reported to have been small in numbers and to have been only armed with primitive rifles. Consequently the British landing parties were thought to be amply able to cope with the force of the slave raiders.

The Admiralty Department Friday ad-

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## Bankrupt Italy.

Grave Consequences of Her Ruin May Be Felt Throughout Europe.

Mr. Astor Loses \$200,000 the First Year on His Newspaper.

Telegraphing Without Wires—New Political Combinations Proposed—Carnegie's English Home—Expenses of the Queen's Trip.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—This week will probably settle the question of the general election and the retirement of Mr. Gladstone. Everybody expects a crisis of some sort, and some surprising rumors are current. The most interesting one, and it comes from a high Unionist source, is that the Duke of Devonshire's opposition to Lord Salisbury in the House of Lords Friday is the first step toward a new combination. Assuming that Mr. Gladstone will retire, Lord Rosebery is to detach himself from the Radicals and join Chamberlain and the Duke of Devonshire in reorganizing the Liberal party. This would mean three parties in the House—Conservatives, Liberals, and probably a combination of Radicals and Home Rulers. It is an interesting scheme, possible, but hardly probable.

The political situation is more critical than it has been since Chamberlain's last desertion of Gladstone, and the developments are pretty sure to include big surprises.

### Bankrupt Italy.

Italy's official confession of bankruptcy this week had a disquieting effect in the European capitals. Signor Sonnino's cry, "God help our country," with which he completed the announcement of the deficit of \$55,000,000, with worse evils impending, finds an echo in the despair with which Europe regards the situation. Many believe it will be impossible to prevent the grave consequences of the country's ruin from soon being felt in general European politics. There is little confidence in the ability of the present or any other Government to save Italy from a great calamity.

### A Newspaper Costs Money.

Mr. Astor is finding it fully as expensive to indulge in the luxury of publishing a good newspaper as to maintain the finest steam yacht. The financial result of his first year's experience as proprietor of the Pall Mall Gazette, Budget and Magazine was recently put before him. A friend of Mr. Astor tells me that the balance on the wrong side of the account amounted to about \$200,000. When he had examined the balance sheet a few minutes it is said that Mr. Astor remarked:

"If the balance against us next year exceeds \$50,000 I shall think there is bad management somewhere."

### Carnegie's English Home.

Buckhurst Park, Earl Delawar's place in Sussex, which Andrew Carnegie has taken for the season, is a charming spot near the south coast, only an hour by rail from London. The house, although modern, has many associations of an antiquity. It stands in the midst of beautifully timbered grounds, and the vast park is stocked with red deer. Mr. Carnegie will probably find the estate a pleasant change from his usual retreat in the far north of Scotland. He may prolong his stay if he finds the new quarters to his taste.

### The Princess in Society Yet.

The Princess of Wales has this week formally contradicted the reports as to her intention to retire from fashionable life by attending a performance of "Twelfth Night" at a theater here, accompanied by her husband. She appears to be in good spirits, and bore no trace of her recent illness. It is scarcely complimentary to the royal couple that most of the newspaper chroniclers thought it necessary to lay stress upon the fact that "the Princess showed his wife marked attentions."

### The Queen's Jewelry Stock.

Mme. Davies, the leader of the Welsh Ladies' Choir, received from the Queen, as a memento of the recent visit to Osborne, a splendid brooch, with the imperial royal monogram in gold, filled with rubies and diamonds, alternately surmounted by a crown, a cushion, which is formed of rubies, and a rim of emeralds and rubies. The Queen is said to be the possessor of quite a large box full of this sort of trifle, including an almost unique collection of gentlemen's scarf pins. She rarely has need to buy of jewelers nowadays, except for ceremonial gifts to foreign royal personages and wedding presents for members of her extensive family. Her box will be largely drawn upon in connection with the forthcoming visit to Italy, experience having shown that foreigners concerned in any way in ministering to her Majesty's

### ALL MEN

Young, old or middle-aged, who find themselves nervous, weak and exhausted, who are broken down from excess or overwork, resulting in many of the following symptoms: Mental depression, premature old age, loss of vitality, loss of memory, bad dreams, dimness of sight, palpitation of the heart, emissions, lack of energy, pain in the kidneys, headaches, pimples on the face and body, itching or peculiar sensation about the secretory organs, loss of the organs, nervous debility, that lead to insanity unless cured. The spring or vital force having lost its tension every function wanes in consequence. Those who through abuse committed in ignorance, may be permanently cured. Send your address and 10c in stamps for book on diseases peculiar to man, sent sealed. Address M. V. LUBON, 24 Macdonnell avenue, Toronto, Ont., Canada. Please mention this paper.

safety and comfort expect a tangible memento; and as the Queen of England, unlike most European sovereigns, has no minor orders of chivalry at her disposal for gratifying the humbler glass of officials, she has to fall back upon her stock of brooches, rings, scarfpins and watches.

**London Free From Anarchists.**

A certain factitious interest in Anarchist doings in London has been nursed recently by the newspapers, but most of it has evaporated. After infinite fuss, the police find themselves without an Anarchist prisoner. The Paris newspapers say that more than 200 London Anarchists are under police surveillance and that great quantities of compromising literature and powerful explosives have been seized in Anarchist haunts. All this is news to the British public, and is received with incredulity by all Londoners.

### Telegraphing Without Wires.

Genuine progress is being made toward the next great electrical triumph—telegraphing and telephoning without wires. The latest results of English experiments were described in a lecture before the Society of Arts on Thursday by W. H. Preece. A copper wire a half-mile long was hung on poles on the coast near Cardiff, the earth completing the circuit. Six hundred yards away another wire, 600 yards long, and parallel with the original line, was buried in the sand at the low water mark. More than three miles off, on Flat Holme Island, another wire, also 600 yards and parallel, was laid down. An alternating current, controlled by a Morse key, was sent through the first wire. The signals were reproduced in the wire on the island and read by a pair of telephones. Messages were easily sent. Similar experiments at five and a half miles were similarly successful. The human voice was easily transmitted by the same means one and a quarter miles. Preece's critics contend that the results were due to conduction through the earth. He maintains that the results were due to electro-magnetic induction of the rapidly-alternating current in the primary circuit, throwing the surrounding ether into oscillations, and the energy was radiated in electric waves. These waves, he says, spread out like waves of light, and if they fall on conductors properly placed and sympathetically prepared are reconverted into an alternate current in the secondary circuit. Enthusiasts on the subject argue that we are fast getting on the track of the secret which, when secured, will enable us to communicate with other planets.

### Cable Notes.

The expenses of the continental holiday will be borne this year, as usual, by the royal privy purse. Reliable estimates put the cost of the six weeks' trip, including journey out and home again, at \$20,000, which cannot be considered extravagant.

Sir Arthur Sullivan and Mr. Gilbert are already planning a new opera to succeed "Utopia." The scene is to be laid in Egypt, and George Grossmith has been engaged for one of the comic parts.

Neal Dow's 90th birthday was celebrated at Exeter Hall on Feb. 20. Lady Henry Somerset, Miss Frances E. Willard, Sir Wilfrid Lawson and other leaders of the temperance cause made addresses.

### MR. WIMAN IS FREE.

Charles H. Deere Deposits \$25,000 in Greenbacks as Bail.

A Letter from Gen. Tracey in Relation to the Charges.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—Deputy Sheriff Dalrymple brought Erastus Wiman from the Tombs to the district attorney's office shortly before noon yesterday, arrangements for bail having been perfected. Mr. Charles H. Deere produced \$25,000 in greenbacks, deposited it and received a certificate of deposit. Recorder Smith then entered a formal order for the release of Mr. Wiman, who at once went to his home on Staten Island.

Mr. Chas. H. Deere, who bailed Mr. Wiman, is a rich manufacturer at Moline, Ill., and is the father-in-law of young Wm. Wiman, who is lying dangerously ill. The following letter in relation to the charges against Erastus Wiman is sent out by his counsel, Gen. Benjamin F. Tracey, executive of the navy, in vindication of that gentleman:

"I have seen for the first time this morning the indictment against Mr. Wiman and have learned the history of the case and the facts upon which the indictments are founded. I am entirely satisfied, after much examination, that Mr. Wiman has committed no crime, and unless I am greatly misinformed the trial will develop a state of facts which will show that Mr. Wiman not only not a criminal, but that he has done nothing that can seriously reflect upon his honor or integrity as a man. I am not in the habit of trying my cases in the newspapers, but in view of the extent to which this course has been taken by Mr. Wiman's enemies and a certain part of his supposed friends, I think it only just to him that I should make this statement."

The last paragraph of Mr. Wiman's book, "Chances of Success," to which he called attention in the morning reads: "An impress of one's active life on the community in which he resides for its great and lasting benefit, in a locality so plastic and so promising, is not an unhappy thing to look upon. In achieving a work of magnitude as is here going forward, mistakes and follies have been committed. But it is the rounded life of a man that must form the basis of the estimate of his success or failure. At the final accounting, perhaps, it will be what he has done, or tried to do for his fellow man, rather than what he has done for himself, by which he will be judged. By that standard on Staten Island, as elsewhere, the writer of these lines will be content to abide the verdict."

### WIMAN DEFENDED.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Mr. Boardman, one of Mr. Wiman's counsel, has given out a statement of Wiman's case, in which he says that for years Wiman has not only been a member of the firm of R. G. Dun & Co., but in the early part of the business has been the responsible head of the concern. Ninety per cent. of all the checks drawn by R. G. Dun & Co. during the past ten years have been signed by Wiman. Probably he has made the same percentage of all the firm's important contracts. "I have for many years acted as Mr. Wiman's private counsel and am familiar with all his important outside business ventures. I cannot recall a single one in which Mr. Dun was not interested, and in

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some of them his interests were larger than those of Wiman. Mr. Dun left the management of everything in his hands, and their relations and interests in these outside matters have been as fast and loose as such relations ever are between brothers or persons who have the utmost confidence in each other. No reference is made in Mr. Nicoll's statement as to Mr. Wiman's intimate personal and business relations with the drawee of the checks described in the indictments, nor to the admitted fact that the signatures of the drawees' names bear no resemblance at all to their genuine signatures, nor to the admitted fact that the indorsements in question were not used to obtain credit from any third party, but simply for the purpose of transferring credits in the bank from an account against which Wiman had a perfect right to draw. The animus of the firm is made apparent by the circumstances connected with Mr. Wiman's arrest.

## TELEGRAPHIC BREVITIES

Every molder in Cleveland is locked out on account of the determination of the foundrymen to close their shops until the molders accept a reduction in wages.

**CANADIAN.**  
The new St. Peter's Cathedral in Montreal is to be opened for worship on Easter Sunday. It has been under construction 18 years.

Susan Chiswell, aged 24, living at the corner of Napier and Locke streets, Hamilton, took poison with suicidal intent Sunday night. She will not die, however.

After the longest sitting on record the British Columbia Legislature adjourned at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon, having been in continuous session 24 hours. The Government determined to pass the estimates against the wish of the Opposition.

### IN THE DEATH CHAIR.

**Johnson Electrocuted at Sing Sing—The Crime.**  
SING SING, N. Y., Feb. 26.—Johnson was electrocuted at 11:35 a.m. The current was on 58 seconds. He died game.

**THE ORPHAN.**  
Matthew Johnson, who was electrocuted today for the murder of Emile Kueckelhorn, on Dec. 9, 1892, made a full confession of every detail of his crime and the causes which led to it. Johnson's lawyer paid him a visit last Friday, and during the conversation Johnson made the confession in the presence of two keepers. He said that he visited the electrocuting establishment where the murder was committed for the purpose of stealing some tools to pawn. He went into the place at 6 a.m. and hid in a loft until the afternoon. Then, believing that everybody had left the building, he went down the stairs to the cellar, where he was confronted by Kueckelhorn. The engineer had an iron poker in his hand and struck at him with it. He dodged the blow and struck Kueckelhorn on the head with an iron bar, felling him to the ground. The engineer staggered to his feet and over to the work-bench, where he seized a saw and attempted to defend himself, but was beaten down and struck until he died.

Johnson had no relatives in this country. He was a West Indian negro. His only visitor yesterday was the Rev. Mr. Wisner, a colored clergyman from New York.

**Heirs to an English Fortune.**  
FLEMINGSBURG, Ky., Feb. 26.—A letter has been received here from Mrs. George K. Duckworth, of Cincinnati, by a relative, stating that they hope soon to come into the possession of the estate of their grandfather, Thielick, who died in England without children, leaving an estate valued at \$500,000. Most of the heirs to this vast fortune live in this city and county.

**A Fatal Mistake.**  
LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Feb. 26.—William Farrar, of St. Louis, who has been on a prolonged spree at St. Charles, Mo., and Mr. Ballard, were shot and killed by William Parker, a young merchant, Saturday night. Farrar in a drunken frenzy, attempted to burst in a door of the store in the rear room of which Ballard and Parker were sleeping. Ballard went out to see what was going on, when Parker awoke, and taking both Ballard and Farrar for burglars, killed them.

**Probs.** (The weather to-night will be dark in places.)

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