

The Mirror and the Web

By the Lady
of Shalott

Doings in "Merrie England."

A PERPETUAL summer, so thickly it spread, seems to be lying out-of-window. Deserted city gardens are delivering their cap-sheaves; and owners who have dug them for the worms they harbour, chiefly, are off to fix their fish-hooks in northern gills. But joy-seeking Jacks and Jills Canuck, just at the moment, are as frequent, nearly, in England, as up in Muskoka. For Shakespeare's England, at Earls Court, is proving a tourists' Mecca—naturally, too, being a product of the brain of Mrs. George Cornwallis-West, the clever and active mother of Winston Churchill.

The "Merrie England Society" has recently been formed, its headquarters located at Bromley, Kent. The president is Mrs. Cornwallis-West, and the chief patroness is the Queen of Spain. The which brilliant conjunction of society luminaries has resulted in such a re-coronation of Old King Cole as has seldom rejoiced the heart of that merry monarch. Knight-hood, reluctant old century-plant that it is, has had to discover that this is the year to flower. The watering-can, so to speak, in the hand of Mrs. Cornwallis-West—and the most loth bud of pageantry simply has to.

That last very difficult bud was the Early English tourney at which mailed Chivalry contended in the lists with genuine Beauty witnessing, enthroned. Gorgeous colours and high-flying spirits animated the scene and noble were many of the houses represented. The Viscountess Curzon was a Queen of Beauty, indeed, tricked out in her old-time, and obviously costly, habit. The stately Princess Pless made an imposing Princess Errant, attended by actual princes as page and herald. And the "die-hard" knights were a vision for gentle eyes, so brave, and dukes and lords, by the score, among them!

Enormous was the expenditure which the entertainment entailed and a certain resentment was stirred in the working ranks—a resentment which kept itself in harmless bounds, however, and was largely allayed by the recent comings and goings of the King and Queen.

Mrs. Cornwallis-West wore blue at the dress rehearsal, a colour in pronounced vogue abroad, just now, and one that is popularizing the wear of sapphires.



Engaging News—Perhaps.

SPEAKING of gems, word is to hand that those most coveted of all stones, diamonds, have been spotted at James Bay and authenticated. Canadian spinsters whom the news is agitating are directed to remember the ancient aphorism that all that glints is not, of necessity, gold. The discovery was a brilliant one, which nobody will deny; but that does not guarantee the news as engaging.



The Tree-Parsons Wedding.

A HIGH-LIFE engagement recently happily culminated in the marriage of Miss Viola Tree to Mr. Alan Parsons, at which event Lady Diana Manners and Miss Asquith acted as bridesmaids. The bride, a clever actress herself, is the daughter of the famous Sir Beerbohm Tree; and the groom, a Civil Servant, the son of a country

clergyman. Many were the distinguished guests who attended the ceremony, among them the Marquis of Anglesey and his fiancée, Lady Marjorie Manners—a pair, just now, a society cynosure.



Canadian Saint-to-be.

IT may seem an abrupt soar direct from brides to saints; but it tempers the flight if you mount

by way of angels. For every woman can be an angel, but only a few can be saints, as the latter's qualifications are much more exacting. To be a saint, to begin with, the aspirant must have been dead for fifty years. Then the Pope has to determine that rather delicate point whether or not her spirit is happily placed. And miracles must have been wrought at her intercession. That is why the greatest respect and honour should be accorded to Margaret Bourgeois, virtuous founder of the Congregation of Notre Dame, whose name is, at present, forward for canonization.



The Cabinet Ladies Abroad.

LIKE Sir Boyle Roche's bird, the ladies of the Canadian Ministerial party abroad are fast learning the trick of appearing in two places at once, in such succession have showered their invitations. Never was party feted more handsomely nor more widely and on certain occasions the entertainment was royal in the literal sense. Mrs. Borden, Mrs. Hazen, Madame Pelletier and the rest are one in their enthusiastic praise of England.



Chimes In.

WE have latterly been hearing many pleasant items of news in connection with Mrs. Hazen, the witty and beautiful wife of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. And now, through Mrs. Hazen, Mr. J. H. Dunn—at present a London financier, but formerly of New Brunswick—has donated the sum of eight thousand dollars for the complete restoration of the worn-out chimes of Christchurch Cathedral, Fredericton.



Miss Binnie-Clark in Edmonton.

MISS BINNIE-CLARK, woman farmer and suffragette, lately visited Edmonton in the capacity of envoy of Thomas Skinner, proprietor of the *Canadian Gazette* and a director of the C. P. R., Bank of Montreal, and the Hudson's Bay Co. The purpose of the commission was to enquire into the value of the securities which support the seemingly phenomenal values of real estate in the way of agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing development. This able woman has farmed for six years a 320-acre farm at Qu'Appelle and she aims at securing homestead rights for women.



Dearth of Teachers.

"BRITISH COLUMBIA wants teachers." "Ontario wants teachers." "Saskatchewan wants teachers." These and similar newspaper headings which constantly recur would indicate a general thirst for knowledge throughout the country with an insufficient Helicon "to slake it." The cause is the unparalleled prosperity of the country and the consequent allurements of other fields than the pedagogic to people who keep a weather-eye on success. Bigger salaries for teachers is a sensible solution. Another, the imperialistic scheme for teaching now being discussed.



Regatta at Winnipeg.

A RECENT interest at Winnipeg was the International Regatta, which lasted two afternoons and whereat competed



The Enthusiastic Reception in England of the Visiting Cabinet Party, When Hundreds of Raised Hats Greeted the Smiles of Mrs. Borden, Mrs. Hazen, Madame Pelletier, Mrs. Kingsmill and Miss Doherty—Smiles That Promptly Precipitated Whole Deluges of Good-will.



The King, Queen and Princess at "Shakespeare's England," at Earls Court. Seen in Front With the King is Mrs. George Cornwallis-West, the Brilliant Restorer of the Old-time Entertainments.