

mediocrity, it will be welcome news to many that Mr Burgoyne is shortly to be ennobled. Hitherto he has always refused the distinctions which the State has to offer. He might have been summoned to the Most Honourable Privy Council many years ago ; and under the last Liberal administration the wish was expressed to see him seated in the gilded chamber, but he pleaded his personal disinclination to avail himself of the proposed compliment. He has remained therefore 'the great commoner' of our time. Now, however, he has bowed to the desire of the present Prime Minister and the advice of his numerous friends, and has signified his willingness to accept the coronet that he might have worn more than a decade since. . . ."

And again :—

"Mr Burgoyne authorises us to publish an emphatic contradiction of the report that he is about to be raised to the peerage. Nothing could he farther removed from the truth than the recent statements to this effect."

But if he had consented to see visitors, he would not have been put to the trouble of dictating a letter to the London editor. He has brought it on himself.

He would not see visitors. He was almost inaccessible to strange visitors. He was in fact a busy man, who could not afford the time necessary for the formation of new friendships. He had written *The Data of Dreams* and another light book, and now he was gathering together the materials for the volume that was to be called *Fireside Reveries*.

In this summer-time—his eighty-sixth summer—it happened that Bevis Castle was let to a foreign princess. This illustrious lady, with her own equerries and the equerry she had borrowed from the Court of St James's, with her own lady-in-waiting and the lady who had been lent to her by Buckingham Palace, with her royal equipages and her royal week-end guests—with so much to render her interesting and attractive to intelligent curiosity, this beautiful and illustrious lady greatly relieved the pressure upon Cliff Lodge. At least half of our correspondents got out of the train at Slanes Junction and plodded