

THE HOUSE OF LORDS

CHECKS IT HAS RECEIVED AT THE HANDS OF THE COMMONS.

The Long Parliament Put the Peers Out of Business Altogether For a Number of Years—Bolingbroke's Way With the Noble Lords.

There is an idea in the minds of very many persons that the British house of lords is supreme and can do pretty well what it pleases. This, however, is a mistake. On several notable occasions their noble lordships have been paralyzed and have got very much the worst of it in stormy arguments with the gentlemen of the house of commons.

The first occasion on which this happened was when the peers ventured to differ with the long parliament, which was at the time engaged in a life and death struggle with Charles I. The commons on this occasion wasted no valuable time in talking, but promptly abolished the lords altogether and turned them, archbishops, dukes, belted earls and all the rest of the gorgeous coned crowd, into the street. The gilded chamber was vacant.

For half a dozen years or so the country got on without any house of lords.

All the checks the house of lords have received have not been of such a drastic nature as this, of course.

Various ministries, finding that the peers were unwilling to pass their proposed bills, have resorted to the threat to create enough new peers to swamp the house of lords. These new peers would, of course, have been pledged beforehand to vote for the ministry creating them.

In 1711 the prime minister of the day, the daring and unscrupulous Viscount Bolingbroke, was anxious to terminate the desolating and ruinous war with France, which had been raging on and off for twenty years.

To effect this purpose he had drawn up the treaty of Utrecht. It was necessary at that time that lords and commons should agree to a treaty before it would become valid. The commons assented to the treaty, but the lords declared that they would have none of it and that the war must go on, whereupon Bolingbroke coolly but firmly informed them that, rather than see himself defied by them, he would create a whole army of new peers to vote for the treaty.

The story goes that he had a regiment of the Life Guards paraded under the windows of the house of lords and threatened to make every trooper into a noble lord if driven to it. He did make twelve new peers, and then the lords gave in.

The Liberal government of 1832, with Earl Grey as prime minister, used the same threat. They wished to pass the first reform bill. The lords hated this bill bitterly.

Until then they had been practically an oligarchy, with all the real power in their hands. The franchise had been so limited that only rich men, and generally only the nominee of some great nobleman, could get into parliament.

The reform bill altered that. It gave the smaller men a chance. The lords expressed their deliberate intention of wrecking the bill.

Earl Grey retorted by extorting from King William IV.—who didn't like reform bills, but dared not oppose the wish of the nation for fear of a revolution—permission to call up to the house of lords as many new peers as should be necessary to carry his bill.

The mere threat was enough for the lords. They had no wish to see their order made cheap and ridiculous, as would have been the case had peers become as plentiful as blackberries.

It used to be the custom in the British army for all officers' commissions to be purchased. That is, an officer, instead of getting into the army by means of a competitive examination

and rising by merit, came straight from school, without knowing anything of the new duties he was about to assume, and had a commission bought for him. After that, instead of being promoted as a reward for his services, he used to buy each promotion.

If he had no money his chances of being promoted were about a thousand to one. The result was that officers who had grown gray in the service and fought in many battles remained subordinate all their lives, while the sons of wealthy families who had not seen a quarter of their service jumped over their heads by having their way purchased up for them to be colonels and generals.

Mr. Gladstone decided to do away with this purchase system. The lords did not wish it to be abolished. Consequently, when Mr. Gladstone introduced a bill to abolish purchase in the army the house of lords was not disposed to give it a kind reception.

They threw out the bill and imagined that they had won a glorious victory. But Mr. Gladstone found that Queen Victoria had the power to abolish purchase in the army by her own act if she pleased. He induced the queen to do this by means of a royal warrant.

And the house of lords could no more interfere with a royal warrant than they could knock the dome off St. Paul's by throwing their coronets at it.—Pearson's London Weekly.

Man and Woman.
"Man, composed of clay, is silent and ponderous," preached Jean Raulin in the fifteenth century, "but woman gives evidence of her osseous origin by the rattle she keeps up. Move a sack of earth and it makes no noise; touch a bag of bones and you are deafened with the clitter clatter."—London Chronicle.

The laws of conscience which we pretend are derived from nature proceed from nature.—Montaigne.

ALMANACH DE GOTHA.

History of This Old and World Famous Institution.

The Almanach de Gotha is more than an almanac. It is an institution. Bravely arrayed in red and gold, it lies on the table of every diplomatist, is in constant request in the newspaper offices of all countries and makes a wider and more international appeal than any other annual of reference in the world. It is to Europe what Burke and DeBret and the other peacocks are to the British isles, and it is also the lineal ancestor and model of such topical encyclopedias as our Whittaker, our Hazell and our Statesman's Yearbook. A political and social history of the world for the last 150 years could be written from its back numbers if these were readily accessible to students. But they are not. The Almanach de Gotha began to appear in 1763, but the purchasers did not file it for reference. The earliest numbers in the British museum are those for 1774 and 1783, and a complete set can be consulted nowhere except in the editorial office in Friedrich's Allee in the little Thuringian capital. Probably not one in ten thousand of those who currently use the almanac has any knowledge of its interesting history.

It had of course its predecessors. The bibliographies of almanacs are ponderous tomes, and the middle of the eighteenth century was the golden age of this kind of literature. In Paris alone as many as seventy-three almanacs were published in the year 1700, including a royal almanac, an almanac for merchants, an almanac for Freemasons, an almanac of beasts, an almanac of badinage, etc. The city of Gotha itself had its own almanac from a still earlier date in the shape of an "improved Gotha genealogical and writing calendar," the origin of which is lost in the mist of antiquity, though a copy dated 1740 survives.—Francis Gribble in Scribner's.

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THE BEST ADVICE IS FREE

Of all the diseases known, with which the female organism is afflicted, kidney disease is the most fatal, and statistics show that this disease is on the increase among women.



Unless early and correct treatment is applied the patient seldom survives when the disease is fastened upon her. We believe Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is the most efficient treatment for chronic kidney troubles of women, and is the only medicine especially prepared for this purpose.

When a woman is troubled with pain or weight in loins, backache, frequent, painful or scalding urination, swelling of limbs or feet, swelling under the eyes, an uneasy, tired feeling in the region of the kidneys or notices a sediment in the urine, she should lose no time in commencing treatment with Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, as it may be the means of saving her life.

For proof, read what Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound did for Mrs. Sawyer.

"I cannot express the terrible suffering I had to endure. A derangement of the female organs developed nervous prostration and a serious kidney trouble. The doctor attended me for a year, but I kept getting worse, until I was unable to do anything, and I made up my mind I could not live. I finally decided to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound as a last resort, and I am to-day a well woman. I cannot praise it too highly, and I tell every suffering woman about my case."—Mrs. Emma Sawyer, Conyers, Ga.

Mrs. Pinkham gives free advice to women; address in confidence, Lynn, Mass.

Costs a Lot.

Prices now are very high,
That I know;
Everything I want to buy
Proves it so.
Butter and eggs, or any meat
For the pot,
Or 'most anything to eat
Costs a lot.

You can't blame the farmers much,
Not a bit;
They have the stuff to sell,
Lots of it;
If the merchant gives the price
Then why not
Take it? even-if-it
Costs a lot.

The house-keepers of this town,
Well, they're hot,
Because they have to pay
For the shot,
There's not much use to squeal,
For the merchant would make one feel
That this market helps us all
Quite a lot.

Perhaps!

LOCAL OR OTHERWISE.

"An" what did Sarah leave 'er last place for?" "O the missus started carryin' on with 'er young man!"

"GOODNESS!" exclaimed little Bess. "Her'n coars 's big dogger!" "Well, you run ahead and let 'im bite you," said 'er small brother. "The doctor said I mustn't take a bite between meals."

DANDELION sandwiches are the latest. They are the choice of the Italians. At some points in Canada they pick the succulent dandelion in flower, if possible, before their breakfast each morning.

THE show for fruit this year is immense, and unless caught by later frosts the prospects are that this will be a record year for pears, cherries, plums and apples. The prospects for an abundant berry crop are also good.

"WILLIE," said his mother, "I wish you would run across the street and see how old Mrs. Brown is this morning." A few minutes later Willie returned and reported: "Mrs. Brown says its none of your business how old she is."

"What," asked the man who is always preaching, "have you done to make this a brighter world?" "I've done a lot in that line, stranger," said the one with the rough hands. "I'm a barn painter by trade, and I generally paint 'em red."

THE wheat and corn and barley crops, Peanuts, potatoes, rice and hops, May for the dump be placed on slides, The prune trees may refuse to bear, Peaches may fail, but who will care While nothing harms the crops of kids?

HOGAN: OI hove found the mon that hit me wid the brick as OI was passin' the alley. "Twas Gallagher, Kathleen. Are ye goin' to git even? Hogan. OI an not. 'Twas all a mistake. Th' mon was only doin' his juty. He thought OI was the constable in plain-clothes.

A VERMONT lawyer writes that a Congressman who formerly practiced law went, soon after he was admitted to the bar, into the office of an older attorney, and said: "Mr., May I borrow one of

your law books?" The older attorney looked over his glasses, and said "Why, certainly. Does it make any difference, which one?"

A MIDDLE aged farmer accosted a serious faced youth outside the Grand Central Station in New York the other day. "Young man," he said, plucking his sleeve. "I want to go to Central Park." The youth seemed lost in consideration for a moment. "Well," he said finally, "you may just this time. But I don't want you ever, ever to ask me again."

THE farmers who have telephones in their houses are the most enthusiastic men in advocating them. This is a good sign. Where they who have tried the thing talk well of it, it is time for all the rest of the farmers to tumble in. It is a paying deal. A sick horse may need a veterinary at once. A phone has saved the horse more than once.

THE Michigan Central is establishing an industrial department in connection with its system, for the purpose of locating industries at stations along its line. For this purpose agents have been requested to furnish information regarding the various towns and villages, which will be given to parties seeking locations for industries of various kinds.

A TRAMP applying for a job was asked whether he could do any gardening. "Yes'm," replied the seedy one. "Then, will you plant these shrubs?" "I don't think I could do that, lady?" "Then what can you do?" "Well, ma'm, if you'll give me one of your husband's cigars I'll sit in the greenhouse and smoke out the insects that's eating the leaves off them roses!"

YOU cannot tell from where you stand whether what happens to you is a blessing or a curse. Take the western farmers for instance. They have been cursing all winter at the railways for failure to remove their grain. Since then wheat has gone up in price—dollar wheat is in sight—and the farmers have their grain on hand instead of having sold it at sixty cents.

WINDSOR RECORD:—The street corner garden grows in favor, as is evident from the many attempts to convert hitherto waste places into beauty spots. Let it be hoped that the short cutter will spare the corner garden. If his haste is so pressing that half-seconds count let him practice economy on the vacant lots and other places where his hoofs will work no ruin to the landscape.

PAT MALONE was mailing a box which he intended sending by rail. It was essential that the box should not be inverted during the passage, and a friend ventured to suggest to Pat to write conspicuously on the case: "This side up, with care." A few days afterward, seeing Pat, he asked: "Heard any more about your goods? Did they get there safely?" "Every one of them broke," said Pat. "The whole lot? Did you label it 'this side up,' as I told you?" "Yes, I did. And for fear they shouldn't see it on the top I put it on the bottom as well."

OF course anything like this, which we clip from the Shelburne Economist, never happened here. Oh, no! certainly not:—The noospapir man goes in 2 see the merchant, and the merchant says, "Say why don't you fellows rite up and tell how bad it is for the town when peepil bi goods in Toronto. Give it a them good and hard. Tell em to spend their munnit with the peepil that's lvin with them evri day, and helpin them pay their taxes and helpin give them a good town to live in!" And the noospapir man ses, "Yes I guess it mite do good awl rite." And they keep on talkin. And bi and bi the noospapir man leens over the merchant's desk, and piks up a note hed, or envilip, and looks at it and ses, "Where did you get that printed, Jones?" And the merchant ses, "Oh, got that dun in Toronto."

Hollow Cement Wall.

Fred Richardson, the noted horse breeder, of Columbus, Ont., is erecting a large barn, 110 by 50, with a horse stable 60 by 40, on his farm here. The walls are being constructed of cement, with an open space of three inches. The wall is filled every six feet by cement bars six inches thick. Mr. Richardson is not pulling down the old church, which he used as a stable, as he claims he has such good luck with all animals entertained there.

Might Be Worse.

A visiting gentleman had submitted for some time to the attentions of the three-year-old boy of his hostess, but at last grew a little tired of having his whiskers pulled and his corns trodden upon. "Madam," said he, "there is one thing about your charming little boy which especially pleases me." "And what is that?" asked the smiling mother. "That he isn't a twin."

Search For a Girl.

Lethbridge, N. W. T., June 6.—The 9-year-old daughter of a homesteader, J. R. English, at Grassy Lake, is lost. Over 100 riders are in the search party, and to-day bloodhounds were scoured from the Government. Every available rider from Taber to Bow Island is in the party. It is feared, however, that the little girl walked into the river.

Railway Tickets Like Stamps.

The time is not far distant when every railroad of the country will be under the control of the United States. It will not be many years before a railroad ticket will be purchased like a two-cent stamp. A universal rate will open to every one. No special rates, pass or rebate will be granted, and every road will be working on a fair and equal basis that will mean good return for every investor interested.

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