

GOSSIP OF LONDON

Movements of the Members of the Royal Family—Christmas Shopping in London.

Bonny Brooks' Libel Suit Against Labouchere Falls—Fraise for 'Lobby's' Paper.

Dr. Howard's Investigation of the Working of Russian Penal System.

London, Dec. 19.—London is crowded with Christmas shoppers, among whom are the Princess of Wales and her daughters, who have daily been busy buying gifts and nightly occupied in visiting the theatres. The Prince of Wales has been shooting with Lord Derby. The Queen arrived on Friday at Osborne for Christmas. Her Majesty's projected visit to Ireland probably arose from the fact that the Duke and Duchess of York will spend a month there in 1897.

After a week at Dublin castle they will make a round of visits to country houses, including that of the Duchess of Devonshire, Earl and Countess Dunraven and the Marquis and Marchioness of Londonderry. The Duke and Duchess of York are spending a week at Fulbeck Abbey, the seat of the Duke and Duchess of Portland. The visit has been full of elaborate ceremonies, ball concerts and shooting, culminating in a splendid ball in the famous subterranean ball room on Thursday.

The large house party including the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, Duke and Duchess of Manchester and Countess Dudley. It is stated that the Duchess of York will shortly sail for her temporary residence, and it is rumoured that the Duke of York will be promoted to be a rear-admiral on New Year's day.

This will cause a great deal of ill-feeling as he will thereby overstep more than a hundred captains, his seniors. The Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark start for Copenhagen to-day, where they will spend several months.

Earl Shaftesbury, who is a member of the staff in Melbourne of Lord Brassey, governor of New South Wales, and whose name was connected in the United States with that of the late Flag Macdonald, of Hoyt's "White Flag" company now in Australia, is soon to marry an Australian heiress, the daughter of Sir William Gosling, which would seem to set at rest the reports circulated at the time of Miss Macdonald's death, that the earl was making her gifts of large sums of diamonds and it rested with her whether another actress was or was not to see her name in the peerage.

A special despatch from Vienna says scandalous rumors are again current in reference to the death of Crown Prince Rudolf, and it is reported that Emperor Francis Joseph has recently received a letter demanding 250,000 florins, threatening, otherwise, that the sensational revelations will be published.

The recent family council of members of the houses of Savoy and Orleans succeeded in inducing the Duke and Duchess of Aosta to abandon their intention of an immediate separation. The Duke of Aosta is the eldest nephew of the King of Italy, and the Duchess to whom he was married in June, 1895, is Princess Elean of Orleans, daughter of the late Comte de Paris and sister of the Duke of Orleans.

Napoleon's reproach, that the British are a nation of shopkeepers, was illustrated this week by an advertisement in a London weekly as follows: "Lady Leving England, permanently, offers to sell family grave, hold five, and its marble slab."

The libel suit of Rev. George Brooks against Mr. Henry Labouchere resulted in a verdict for "Lobby" with costs, together with the jury's opinion that Truth had conferred a benefit upon the public by exposing the misdoings of the "Lobby Writers," who aroused unusual interest. The plaintiff is known as "Bonny Brooks" owing to the first lord of the treasury, Mr. A. J. Balfour, giving him £200 out of the Royal bounty fund on account of an account book in which Brooks was the author. The evidence in the suit just ended showed that Brooks from 1889 to 1895, realized over £7,000 by begging letters. During the course of his testimony Brooks admitted his financial troubles, partly to a disastrous speculation in a lecture of the late Henry Ward Beecher, who the plaintiff said, demanded a fee of £60 in advance, while only £20 was taken at the door. Brooks also said that he continued exposure of the impostor, and said that it had developed that he had expended for this purpose £40,000 in lawyers' fees alone during recent years.

Altogether, "Lobby" is the lion of the week, for in addition to his legal victory, there has been Truth's annual distribution of toys for the children's hospitals, at Albert Hall, which has been the centre of attraction, and where 4,200 dressed dolls were on view and 25,000 other toys.

Dr. Benjamin Howard, surgeon, well known in England and America, who since 1850 has made a special study of penology, has just arrived in England from his tour to Russia and Siberia, undertaken for the purpose of confirming and bringing up to date the observations made by him at Saghalien and elsewhere since 1888. During an interview with a representative of the Associated Press, Dr. Howard said: "The special object of my last journey, which lasted six months, was to complete my studies regarding the recurrence, distribution and means of forwarding Siberian exiles. I have been through every convict exile prison between St. Petersburg and Siberia; I have waylaid exiles going along the road, rail and river, examined convict barges in which they are conveyed, when empty and when full; I had opportunities for speaking to every man on board for hundreds of consecutive miles I have kept observation of the gangs so as to observe them under all conditions. My object was not merely

to confirm or deny the statements made by others on Siberia, but to bring my personal knowledge on the Russian penal system up to date. "I have," continued Dr. Howard, "made a special study of penology for over thirty-five years, and during that period have examined the systems of the West Indies, East Indies, China, Japan, Siberia, Europe and America. In 1888 I commenced my study of the Russian system and that year I visited the convict establishments of Moscow and St. Petersburg. Next I went to Siberia and the great exile island of Saghalien. I was the first foreigner to live on the island, although various persons have touched the place. The unique feature of my visit, which lasted from July to September, lay in the fact that I went as a personal friend of the governor, whom I met casually at dinner. During my visit I accompanied him on his tours of inspection, and frequently saw more than the governor himself. I was practically an official, without official responsibility, and was able to avail myself of the singular opportunity afforded me as the first person, other than a Russian official or exile, to spend so long a period at the place."

Asked concerning the result of his observations, Dr. Howard replied: "In its main principle, the productive labor of the Russian penal system is worthy of imitation, in its general mal-administration worthy of reprobation."

Asked to explain the strangely divergent accounts of Messrs. Howard, Windt and George Kennan, Dr. Howard declined to deny or affirm such statements. "He pointed out, however, in the case of Mr. Kennan's book the writer does not profess to have seen personally any of the barbarities mentioned by him. "I can only speak from what I have seen. The administration of the Siberian system rests so largely in individuals that almost anything may be possible."

Comparing the lot of Siberian exiles with convicts in other countries, Dr. Howard remarked: "The result of my experience has been to show that the address in Russia is largely in his own hands. After a convict's term of two years' imprisonment is over there is nothing to prevent him, within three to five years, of becoming—within certain geographical limits—a free man. Saghalien is practically impossible in general, with very special exceptions. The political exile or murderer in Saghalien lives with his family in a well built and often pretty four-roomed house, with a courtyard, vegetable garden, etc. "Is the island full of murderers?"

"The island is populated mostly by murderers or by persons guilty of similar crimes. They work peacefully and industriously on their farms and walk about the streets to all appearances free men. Go into the bureau of prisons and you see men seated at rows of desks. The general demeanor and appearance of the place is not unlike what you would see in any part of the world, yet each man is probably convicted of murder. The Russian convicts, instead of being a heavy charge on the resources of the country, are a source of revenue. Convict labor has added to the Russian convict island, the length of England, not an acre of which was previously under cultivation and only the population of Siberia by these people has made possible the trans-Siberian railway, the envy of the whole world."

In conclusion Dr. Howard said: "The main lesson to be drawn from this system is the absolute facility of punishment for its sake alone. The first principle taught is self-maintenance, convict labor being productive of a net profit to the state, so that, instead, as in England, for instance, costing many millions, the state reaps an annual revenue, by putting in force organized forms of industry suited to the capacity of the respective criminals. By this means the Siberian convict does not lose all self-respect, and often are better fitted than before to become useful members of society. In the English and some other prison systems, the result is generally the opposite. The result of a convict's incarceration and the useless form of labor which have been employed, often only generates revenge, which renders him an habitual criminal."

Dr. Howard will shortly leave for New York where he will read a paper before the New York Geographical Society.

The prime mover in the testimonial which it was proposed to present United States Ambassador Bayard, seems to have been Sir Edwin Arnold. To a representative of the Associated Press, Mr. Bernard Quatrich, bookseller, said: "Some days before anything was mentioned in the Telegraph, Sir Edwin Arnold came to me and asked me what I had that would form a worthy present for Mr. Bayard. I showed Sir Edwin first a magnificent copy of Chaucer, printed by Caxton, a wonderfully perfect copy, only two leaves being lost and which cost \$9400. Other expenses brought it up to \$10,000. I told Sir Edwin my price was \$12,500. He then wanted to know if he did not wish to know that, what else I had. Then I showed him a manuscript copy of Chaucer, written on vellum, before printing was invented, having illuminated capitals. For this I wanted \$1500. He thought it particularly appropriate as I do not believe there is a Chaucer manuscript copy in the United States. I also showed Sir Edwin two copies of the first folio of Shakespeare, one \$420 and the other \$300. Of course they have the first folio in the United States, but their prices are dear, but not for the condition the books are in. I have a letter from Sir Edwin apologizing for the fact that the matter was not going on. The Chaucer printed by Caxton would have been much appreciated in the United States. I sold a copy the other day to an American collector for \$6000, but it was not so perfect a copy as the one shown Sir Edwin, as eight leaves are in the fac simile. It is believed Sir Edwin Arnold hoped to obtain \$12,900 and secure the Caxton copy of Chaucer and the best of the two first folios of Shakespeare, in my response, to secure an enthusiastic Chaucer and a folio at the expense of \$1900. When the list closed subscriptions were announced for \$840.

Leo Stern, the Vienna violinist, who was recently summoned by Emperor William to play at one of the Imperial concerts at Berlin, will sail for America for a prolonged concert tour at the end of January.

George Alexander, so encouraged by the success of "As You Like It," proposes producing in turn "Henry the Fifth," "Taming of the Shrew," and "Hamlet."

Blackburn gave a brilliant exhibition of chess at Balham on Monday, playing six simultaneous games blindfold against strong players. He won five games and drew the sixth.

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EAST OF THE ROCKIES

Petition and Cross-Petition in the Owen Sound Election Court—Dismissed.

Messrs Bostock and Mara tell the People of Toronto About British Columbia.

Montreal, Dec. 17.—E. H. Dunham, manager of the Balmoral hotel here, is lying at death's door at Hot Springs, Ark.

Rev. Dr. Conaty, the new rector of the Catholic University at Washington, who received his training in the Sulpician Seminary here, is expected to reach the city on Sunday evening, and arrangements have been made by the Irish Catholics to give him a reception in the Monument National, where he will deliver a lecture. The different Catholic societies will meet him at the Bonaventure depot.

The question of the mayorality is still the subject of gossip here. Mr. Fleming will run for re-election, and Ald. McMurich has long been in the field but is not acceptable to the Conservative party.

Barlow Cumberland and A. A. Holland are the last names suggested.

Genl. Dec. 17.—Twenty-seven more charges will be laid against ex-City Treasurer Harvey on his return from jail. County Attorney Paterson has been instructed by the attorney-general to proceed with them.

Fitch Bay, Dec. 17.—E. B. Dolloff's ash and door factory was destroyed by fire with its contents and machinery; loss about \$8,000.

Winipeg, Dec. 17.—Fred Palmer, aged 35, attempted suicide last night in his room while temporarily insane. He will recover.

While Lord Aberdeen was in Winipeg a sneak thief entered his private car and stole His Lordship's fur cap and other articles. He was arrested to-day by the city police and the cap found in his possession. The prisoner gave the name of P. Grant.

The Winnipeg bank clearings for the week ending to-day totalled \$1,814,805, a net balance of \$38,219, as against \$1,433,703 and \$290,538 net balances for the same week last year.

T. Tessier, proprietor of the Grand Central hotel, here is dead.

Mon Clifford Sifton left for Ottawa to-day to assume the duties of his office as minister of the interior.

Chatham, Dec. 17.—James Dumar, who was arrested yesterday confessed last night to the detectives that he shot the Widow Snooks in her lonely cottage in Cobble Hill. He said he was desperate and wanted money to start a business in the cottage, fired at the woman through the window and as soon as she fell senseless, he forced the door and stole \$5, all the gold find, though there was \$25 in the house. Mrs. Snooks still lies in the general hospital in a very precarious condition.

QUARANTINE REGULATIONS.

Hon. Mr. Fisher Meets With Considerable Success at Washington.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Hon. Sidney Fisher, of Ottawa, and Dr. Duncan MacBachran, chief inspector of live stock of the Canadian government, have just concluded their conference with Secretary Morton in regard to the proposed modifications of the cattle quarantine laws between the two countries.

Mr. Fisher and Secretary Morton had the proper officers in each country should take up the question, and when an agreement had been reached as to all particulars it shall be presented to the respective heads of departments for ratification. The Canadians and Secretary Morton and Dr. Salmon held another conference to-day, and then the former went to the capital to interview the members of the Congressional committee on agriculture.

FLUID BEEF SET.

(MADE OF PURE ALBUMINUM.) A Handsome and Convenient Outfit for Room or Office. OUR SPECIAL OFFER. 1 Tray, 1 Spirit Lamp, 2 Cups, 2 Spoons, 1 Water Boiler, 2 Salt and Pepper Casters, 1 Bottle Methylated Spirits, 1 1/2 oz. Bottle JOHNSTON'S FLUID BEEF. Remit by Express or Post Office Order, payable to THE JOHNSTON FLUID BEEF CO., Montreal.



We Have Been Laying for You

Goa, Portuguese India, say that the insurgent Ranes have attacked Pernem and have burned and sacked the town. A force of six hundred Portuguese troops were sent against the Ranes and scattered them, killing several of their number.

The proposed dockers' strike at Glasgow has collapsed so far as the Atlantic line steamships are concerned.

It is stated that the North German Lloyd line steamships will call at Plymouth with the beginning of the summer service to New York.

M. A. de Boende, commercial manager for Paris of La Compagnie Generale trans-Atlantique, is dead. He will be remembered by many people as the former commander of the French line steamer Saint Laurent, M. de Boende was 47 years old at the time of his death.

The French chamber of deputies to-day adopted the credits asked for to meet the expenses of the visit of the Emperor and Czarina in Paris, by a vote of 496 to 25, after rejecting by a vote of 346 to 136 a socialist amendment to add to the credit the sum of four million francs to be devoted to the assistance of the unemployed.

THE LABORS OF GENIUS.

Lope de Vega, the famous Spanish dramatist and poet, lived from 1562 to 1635. His literary work began when he was about thirteen years old, and from that time until his death, a period of sixty years, he poured forth an enormous quantity of plays, dramatic compositions of all kinds, poems of every character, breathing every spirit, from the strictest asceticism to the most unbridled license.

Petrarch lived seventy years. The sonnets of Laura, the only productions by which he is now remembered, were written within a period of twenty years, during which the intimacy continued. Petrarch had been writing sonnets to Laura for about sixteen years when the lady fancied she discovered symptoms of a not unusual weariness and plintively asked the poet, "Are you tired so soon?" as though a matter of sixteen years were a mere bagatelle.

Goethe was born in 1749, and died in 1832. His literary life began with the composition of "Götz von Berlichingen," in 1773, and ended with his death, thus covering a period of fifty-nine years. His last three years were spent in revising a complete edition of his works for the printer. He was thus enabled to round off and complete his literary fame in a manner more satisfactory than that of any other writer.

Mozart lived thirty-seven years. His music was composed when he was less than ten years of age, and the enormous quantity of his compositions was the work of the succeeding twenty-seven years. Mozart wrote 41 sym-

DEVELOP

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