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LONDON, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28.

THE BRITISH ELECTION AND AFTER.

The conclusion of the British elections has diverted public interest to the immediate programme of the Government.

When Mr. Balfour sidetracked tariff reform, he made the constitutional question the all-dominating issue. The election was equivalent to a referendum on a single proposal—the abolition of the absolute veto power of the House of Lords. In the election of January this proposal was only one of the issues, the other two principal ones being the budget and tariff reform. The new House of Commons has an absolutely clear mandate to pass the anti-veto bill, and the House of Lords has no valid pretext for opposing it. "The ultimate authority in the English constitution," says Hagehot, "is a newly elected House of Commons." Again, "The head of the executive can overcome the resistance of the Second Chamber by choosing new members of that chamber; if he does not find a majority he can make a majority." A British statesman who says that the Crown is involved in the present difficulty is merely trying to make difficulties for the Crown where none exist. The Manchester Guardian aptly quotes Sir William Anson, the most Conservative authority on the constitution, as saying, "It is the function of the sovereign of England to give his ministers his full confidence and to accept their advice when offered by them as a cabinet."

As a constitutional sovereign, the King will, of course, obey the counsel of his ministers, and create new peers if the step is necessary to force the bill through the upper chamber. But it is highly improbable that the Unionist peers will compel the King to perform so disagreeable a duty. They will in all likelihood allow the bill to pass its third reading under protest, and they will then resume the work of obstructing other legislation. The home rule bill and the anti-plural voting bill will be held up, doubtless, for the two years in which the House of Lords is to be permitted to delay House of Commons measures.

A CRISIS IN PERSIA.

The sharp brush between a British naval force and Arab gun-runners, which occurred on the southern coast of Persia on Monday, has focussed European attention on a very grave international problem in Persia. The action, combined with the recent destruction of piratical dhows by the British, may raise serious difficulties, involving Great Britain, Russia, and Germany.

By an Anglo-Russian agreement the northern part of Persia became a Russian sphere of influence, the southern section being allotted to Great Britain. This left a wide neutral zone, the object of British diplomacy being to keep the Indian and Russian frontiers as far apart as possible. The situation, however, became highly complicated when the revolution broke out last spring, at the Persian capital, Russia, on the pretence of protecting her interests, threw a strong body of troops into Tehran. They are still there, in spite of promises to withdraw, and there is a growing suspicion in the chancelleries of Europe that the move was the entering wedge of a permanent occupation. Meanwhile, in the south, the insecurity of the overland trade routes is proving disastrous to British commerce. The evil has become so great that the British consul at Shiraz was attacked and several of his escort killed. Despite repeated representations from London, however, the Shah's Government has failed to stop the wholesale brigandage, and now the British Government threatens to use a portion of the Persian Gulf customs to provide guards under British officers. The Persian Government fears that this will result in permanent occupation and make Persia a second Egypt. As a result, relations between London and Tehran are strained. Germany, too, is watching the situation with a jealous eye. Because of her mercantile interests in the near east, and the large sums put into the Baghdad railway project, she believes she is entitled to a foothold in Persia equal to that of any other power.

Altogether, the situation is a critical one, and some delicate diplomacy may be necessary if a serious clash is to be avoided.

The Provincial election in St. John's, Quebec, tomorrow will show whether the Nationalist movement is

spreading. It will show also whether the English-speaking Conservatives of the riding are more patriotic than partisan.

The daughter of Sam Slick has just died. Her father's name is not as well remembered by Canadians as it ought to be. He was the pioneer of the distinctively American humor of which Mark Twain was the greatest modern exponent. Those who have not read Sam Slick have missed a classic.

An American naval officer is in hot water because he made an indiscreetly pro-British speech at a banquet at the Guildhall. His country ought to overlook the fault of his tongue, seeing that his heart was in the right place. Allowance ought to be made, too, for the overwhelming hospitality for which the Guildhall is pre-eminent. It was the scene of Roosevelt's famous "break"—a distinguished precedent.

The ascendancy of Premier Brand shows how much more conservative France is today than in the latter part of the eighteenth century. Many good persons saw in the French revolution nothing but the dissolution of society and the reversion to barbarism. But the revolution gave France a conservative foundation through the break-up of the great estates and the distribution of the land. There is a lesson for other nations in this. Reform will avert revolution.

In the Morning Post, the leading British tariff reform journal, a writer contrasts the three failures of Mr. Balfour with the records of other political leaders since 1868 as follows:

Won.	Lost.
Mr. Gladstone . . . 1868, 1880, 1874, 1886	
1885, 1892	
Mr. Disraeli . . . 1874	1868, 1880
Lord Salisbury . . . 1886, 1895, 1885, 1892	1900
Lord Rosebery . . . 1895	
Sir H. Campbell . . . 1900	
Bannerman . . . 1906, 1910	
Mr. Balfour . . . (Jan.), 1910	(Dec.)
Mr. Asquith . . . 1910 (Jan.)	1910 (Dec.)

Mr. Balfour is the only leader who has been defeated three times in succession. There is a growing spirit of revolt against him, the Morning Post being one of the mutineers.

THE CHRISTMAS READING.

[Catholic Standard and Times.]
The herald winds of Christmas sleep
High cradled on the wooded steep,
The far stars only are a-thrill,
With life; the night is cold and still.
Come, gather round the log-fire glow,
And from its shelf take down the book
Whence the master's words drew
Those pictures old, but ever new,
Whose "Christmas Carols" deathless
clime
Beats down the envious touch of time.
Here let the children sit, and draw
Beneath the lamp's light page thy chair.
Take thou the book, O golden voice,
And read the pages of thy choice.
Tell us of Scrooge and Marley's ghost,
Of all our favorites old, but most
Tell us with tenderness of him
Who laugh and weep with Tiny Tim.
Call thou the soul to every face
About the fire, and bid each place
We shall not be ashamed at all,
For frank, sweet tears you cause to fall;
But fervently, with eyelids dim,
And hearts attuned to Tiny Tim,
We'll quote his words when you have
done,
And say: "God bless us, every one!"

INTIMIDATING THE CLERGY.

[From a speech by Earl Beauchamp.]
The clergy of the diocese of Worcester, twelve months ago was asked to sign a petition against the budget, and he said he did not think it was his business as a curate to take part in political contests. A little later people began to talk about the curate's refusal to sign the petition, and it came to the ears of the churchwardens and the vicar. The vicar wrote him a letter, and said that on account of his political opinions he must leave the parish. The curate had no means of his own, and was thrown upon the world. He (Lord Beauchamp) was sure that the Lord had called him to do his duty, and after hearing the facts had presented him with a living.

THE FOREIGNER OF THE FAMILY

"You didn't introduce me to your titled son-in-law?"
"I wanted to," replied Mr. Cumrox, "but it always embarrasses me to let him hear me trying to pronounce his name."

SERVED HIM RIGHT.

[Washington Star.]
At Christmas gift cigars he raided
In a saloon.
The Christmas necktie never failed
To start a merry train.

Suspenders with sarcastic smiles
He ventured to discuss;
And hostility of fancy styles
He called ridiculous.

We passed him up. When others cut
Their presents from the limb
The Christmas tree was nothing but
A lemon tree for him.

OXFORD STICKS TO GREEK.

[Saturday Review.]
Humanity is not dead after all. Oxford sticks to Greek. It is a great victory for the Hellenists, for it was congregation and not convocation which declined to make Greek optional for all. No one can say that the country parsons did it, or that expert opinion did it; all those who are actively engaged in running the university were in favor of the change, and were overcome by outside reaction brought up for the purpose. Greek must have equal rights with Latin. The ordinary undergraduates should be made to know something of both, and if he is to be allowed to do with only one, Greek must have as good a chance of being taken as Latin. This, as Professor Gilbert Murray says, will save Greek at the public schools. For the specialist, the mathematical or scientific man, we have always been willing to let him off Greek; though in our judgment it will generally be better for him if he is not let off.

ARTLESS COMMENT.

[Puck.]
"What did your children say when you disguised yourself as Santa Claus?"
"They said, 'Ain't he comical?' He looks just like father!"

EXCESS OF WOMEN.

[London Daily News.]
Although the last census in France was taken on March 4, 1906, the detailed results have only just been published. Among the interesting facts revealed by the census is the remarkable increase

in the excess of females over males. The 1906 census gives the number of males as 19,000,721, and the number of females as 19,744,922, so that there are 645,201 more females than males.
In 1901 the difference was only 617,000 in favor of the female sex; in 1891 only 309,000, while in 1886 the female sex outnumbered the male by but 130,000, and in 1881 by 22,000 only.

THE OLDEST DENTIST.

[Boston Herald.]
Newcastle, Maine, in the person of Dr. Rufus C. Chapman, has doubtless the oldest practicing dentist in the world. He was born in 1822, and has followed his profession since 1845. In all that time he has been well abreast of his profession, for it is asserted of him not only that he was the first dentist to use ether as an anesthetic, but he was the third person in the world to hit upon the idea of applying it externally in surgical cases. Although nearing his 90th year he is hale and still in active work.

AN EXCITED VICAR.

[London Daily News.]
The vicar of Minster, writing in his Parish Magazine, discusses the contest in the Oswestry division, says among other things: "Such men as are at present at the head of a misguided Ministry and Government ought never to have been allowed to blacken the pages of our national history!" "The first two notes of exclamation are the vicar's own. As it seemed to us that this was a stinging allowance for such a remark from an educated man in such a place, we added a few more."

SELF-CONDEMNATION.

[Washington Star.]
"I have been voting for you for twenty years," said Farmer Cortiswell.
"Such loyalty," replied the politician, "touches me."
"Taint' loyalty. It's jes' a bad habit."

FIVE THREE YEARS.

[The N. Y. Herald.]
I push the narrow swinging door, and find
The little garden with its prim-cut
ways
Washed in the pale gold of the morn-
ing's haze,
And every flower with dewy glitters
lined.

Unchanged, the rustic chairs, the arbor
twined
With wild vine tangles. Still the foun-
tain plays
Its silver melody in leaping sprays,
And still the aspen sorrows to the wind.
The roses all their ancient joy unfold,
The great proud lilies flaunt them as of
old.

Each mounting lark is my familiar
friend;
Even the slender Volella stand yet,
In crumpling plumes, at the old's end,
Dreaming amid the scents of mignonette.

DA COLDA FEET.

[T. A. Daly.]
Da beggarman across da way
Ee happy as can be,
He laugh an' weep because he think
He gotta joke on me.

O my, O my, how cold eet ees
For stan' on dees staar!
Da winds how like dey gonna freeze
Da shoes upon your feet.

I neeva see een dees staar
So fierce da weesta storm;
I keepa loopin' up an' down
In all as against 10,411 in 1909. Though
no increases in attempts to import
contract labor is apparent 1,700 aliens
were deported as such during the
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Promotion of employees by merit
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Superiors Should Promote.
"Employees work under the direction
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judged by them," says the secretary.
"In the final analysis their rights to
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Mr. Nagel himself on record in
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Publicity Needed.
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In reviewing the work of the bureau
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and also on the Pribilof Islands. Re-
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pelagic sealers if they had wireless
equipment, the secretary says.

Mr. Nagel recommends laws which
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of their operation which would be
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MRS. CUNARD DEAD.

[Halifax, N. S., Dec. 27.—George E. Franklyn received a cable today an-
nouncing the death of his aunt, Mrs.
William Cunard, which occurred at Ni-
ce, France.

TO SAFEGUARD TIES
OF ALIEN FAMILIES

Secretary Opposes Practice of
Separating Kin at Ocean
Ports.

VERY MANY EMIGRANTS

Figures Show That Last Year 1,198,037
Came into the States, and of
These Two Per Cent Were
Turned Back.

[Associated Press.]
Washington, Dec. 27.—Secretary
Nagel's annual report, sent to the
President today, contains many
important recommendations for
changes and improvements in the
various bureaus and branches of the
department of commerce and labor.
Great popular interest attaches to
the immigration and naturalization
of aliens and much of the secretary's
report is devoted to that subject.

One of the hardships of the present
immigration laws, Mr. Nagel believes,
is the separation of families. In
many instances a father is admitted
and his wife and children are barred
out after the pioneer has made a
home. The secretary believes that a
more equitable system could be had
and says he assumes it is the pur-
pose of the law to keep families to-
gether and not to separate them. The
secretary suggests that some system
by which inquiry should be made
about the families of immigrants be-
fore fathers and sons are admitted
should be put into practice.

Unless immigration can be diverted
from Ellis Island or reduced there is
need for additions to the facilities
there. At no port is there any ade-
quate provision for handling immi-
grants, declares the secretary, al-
though at most places sites have been
bought by the Government for build-
ings to be used for these purposes.

Stricter regulation of steamship
companies in the immigrant traffic is
urged in the report, and a system of
fines for companies which bring in-
sane immigrants is recommended.
With contagious diseases is proposed.
The secretary declares that the im-
migration officials often find it unwise
to allow alien employees of steamships
to land on American soil without ap-
plying the usual examination to them.

While the fiscal year 1910 brought
a total of 1,198,037 immigrants to the
United States, the prediction is made
that the coming year will approach
the banner year of 1907, when more
than 1,235,000 aliens came in. Of all
those who came during the year, 24,000
were turned back, and 274,000 admitted they had been assisted
by friends. All the immigrants
brought a total of \$28,197,753 with
them, a per capita of about \$27.

Two Per Cent Turned Back.

The bulk of the immigration con-
tinues to be drawn from Southern and
Eastern Europe. Two per cent of all
who applied for admission were
turned back, and 24,000 were
admitted. In all, as against 10,411 in 1909. Though
no increases in attempts to import
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Kingsmills

Drygoods, Carpets,
Costumes, Millinery

Kingsmills

Special Sale of Wool Saxony Blankets

Regular \$2.50 Pair. On Sale at Only, Per Pair **\$1.95**

Tomorrow many wise housekeepers will reap the benefit of a special sale of Warm, Wool Saxony Blankets at a price greatly below their actual honest value. They are large double-bed size, being 64x76 inches, are soft, warm and comfortable; guaranteed absolutely unshrinkable. Our regular \$2.50 value. Starting tomorrow, per pair **\$1.95**

\$5 New Tapestry Curtains on Sale \$3.75

The maker wanted the ready cash, gave us an offer to clear all the Curtains he had in stock. We bought these at a great price concession and now, starting tomorrow, we offer you the choice of a great variety of high-class, stylish Tapestry Curtains, in greens, blues, browns and reds at a price at least \$1.25 less than they ever have been sold in Canada. Our regular \$5.00, many stores regular \$6.00 values. Go on sale starting tomorrow **\$3.75**

Our Standard 45c Women's Stockings on Sale, 40c Pr.

Many women buy no other Stocking than this 45c Black Cashmere. It is a fine, all-wool cashmere, will not shrink, gives satisfactory service in hard usage. To all our regular customers, and any other women who desire a good hose for hard wear, we would say, "Lay in a supply of these." Our standard 45c value. On sale, per pair **40c**

Wait for Our Big Sale of Dress Goods. It's Coming Soon

Kingsmills

TETRAZZINI SINGS IN FRISCO STREET

Audience of 100,000 Wildly Cheers Two Selections Rendered By Diva.

San Francisco, Dec. 27.—Mme. Luisa Tetrazzini sang in the streets of San Francisco Christmas Eve. Grand opera singer for the once became a street singer, and the celebrated diva's audience, in which there were more than 100,000 people, packed the streets for blocks around to get within sound of her voice. The weather was ideal—clear and mild; overcasts and freezing rain were not the sign of an umbrella.

Among the thousands who came to listen to Mme. Tetrazzini were many visitors from nearby cities, they like the San Francisco residents, regarding the event as they would a festival.

The crowds began jamming the streets before 7 o'clock, but they were kept moving by police. At 8 o'clock all street car and other vehicle traffic was suspended and when Mme. Tetrazzini made her appearance upon the large stand that had been erected close to Lotta's fountain, which had been erected to the city many years ago by Lotta Crabtree, the actress, the great audience broke into a tumult of cheering.

Her first song was "The Last Rose of Summer," and when the first notes left her golden throat the crowds were hushed into a most remarkable stillness. At the conclusion of the song the cheer and expression of the audience in jubilation were thrown upon the stand.

Mme. Tetrazzini favored the audience with another selection, the waltz song from "Romeo and Juliet," and when she had finished the demonstration was repeated.

In probably no other city in America could an opera singer have taken the risk in the night air on Christmas Eve that Mme. Tetrazzini did. Unquestionably no other singer had such a multitude for an audience.

The diva was happy as a school girl over the affair, and expressed herself as more than delighted that she was able to keep the promise she had made in New York to sing in the streets of San Francisco for the benefit of all the people.

POISONED WINE

Two Are Dead as Result of Partaking Too Freely.

[By Associated Press.]
New York, Dec. 28.—A man and a woman are dead and two others men are in hospitals as a result of drinking liquor said to have contained wood alcohol at a lower west side Christmas celebration on last Monday night. The dead are Mrs. Maria Del Gaudio, 22 years old, and Rocco De Mario. The condition of the other two men is said to be serious.

All attended a Christmas feast, where the host had laid in a large store of wine, and the party drank freely. Soon afterward four members of the company were taken violently ill. Mrs. Gaudio died last night and de Mario early today.

A CLOSE CALL

Mrs. Annie Copeland, of Aylmer, Was Knocked Down by a Train.

Aylmer, Dec. 27.—Mrs. Annie Copeland had a miraculous escape from being killed at the G. T. R. depot yesterday, as she was intending to go to St. Thomas and reached the depot just as the 12:30 G. T. R. westbound train was pulling slowly out. In an effort to jump on the unfortunate woman slipped and fell between the platform and the rails, and in trying to get out of that dangerous position was knocked down by one of the car braces. Operator Birchfield then appeared on the scene and, realizing the perilous position of the woman, he pulled her from the track just in time to save her from being knocked down a second time by the steps of the car. Mrs. Copeland luckily was not hurt, and returned to her home without completing her journey.

PRAISED BRITISH SAILORS TOO MUCH

Commander Sims' Speech Got Him Into a Lot of Trouble.

[Associated Press.]
Washington, Dec. 17.—The case of Commander Wm. S. Sims, of the United States steamship Minnesota, who, according to press reports, delivered a distinctly pro-British speech at a banquet in London, Dec. 4, and which has been regarded as offensive by citizens of other nations, is now in the hands of President Taft.

In response to a cablegram from Secretary Meyer, asking for an official report of the exact sentiments expressed by Commander Sims, Rear Admiral Murdock, commanding the third division of the Atlantic fleet, to which the Minnesota is attached, has made a cable reply to the secretary giving the substance of the commander's remarks. Mr. Meyer referred the matter to the President as commander-in-chief of the navy.

No inkling of the nature of Admiral Murdock's cablegram was obtainable at the navy department.

The banquet at which the speech was delivered was given in honor of the officers and men of the American fleet in the English Channel and was one of the functions which marked the visit of the vessels to English and French ports.

Replying to the welcoming speech of the lord mayor of London, Commander Sims, according to the press dispatches, said that, speaking for himself, he believed that if the time ever came when the British Empire was menaced by an external enemy it might count on every man, every drop of blood, every ship and every dollar of their kindred across the sea.

GUARDING GRAVE

A Close Watch Is Being Kept Over Body of Mrs. Eddy.

[Associated Press.]
Boston, Dec. 27.—Guards will be maintained over the body of Mrs. Mary Baker G. Eddy in the receiving tomb at Mount Auburn Cemetery until it is removed and placed in some permanent resting place.

Should the heirs insist on the burial being either at Concord or Tilton, N. H., probably no watch will be maintained at the expense of the mother church.

In case the body is placed in a Mausoleum to be erected at Mount Auburn, a watchman is to be kept on duty indefinitely. At the present time four men guard the body, two spending the night in the receiving tomb, and they being relieved by two others at 8 a.m. All four are Christian Scientists, and are armed.

The vault has been arranged so that the men do not suffer from cold or dampness, and have a couch on which they can rest. A telephone and electric lights are established in the tomb, and it is not an uncomfortable place in the least.

No information could be obtained as to whether the directors of the church believe in the resurrection of Mrs. Eddy or not.

BLAZE IN MONTREAL

Fire in the Wholesale District Causes a Loss of \$200,000.