

London Jottings.

Cinderellas are decidedly one of the afflictions of the age. Quite a number of Cinderella dances are announced for the winter months. Of course, the old idea of this kind of entertainment was a small and early dance which terminated at twelve. *Mais nous avons change tout cela.* It is now quite the regular thing for Cinderellas to last till one or half-past one, or even two o'clock in the morning, while the numbers of the guests vary according to circumstances, and may amount to several hundreds. The question therefore arises—as they are no longer small and early—what constitutes the difference between a Cinderella and another dance. Experience, however, has shown that when the mystic word Cinderella is inscribed on the top of an invitation card, it infallibly means that the dance is going to be done as cheaply and consequently as badly as possible. The music is likely to be limited to a piano and a squeaky fiddle. The supper will probably consist of weak claret-cup and lemonade, grass sandwiches, and curious looking cakes of the three-days-old railway-station type.

The room will be by no means proportioned to the size of the company, and there will be only an odd shelf and a dusty corner wherein to dispose of the hats and coats. Under these circumstances, the most sanguine person who goes imbued with the erroneous view that Cinderella means plenty of dancing, if nothing else, will very soon become disgusted with the crush and the pushing, will come away at last feeling very hot and hungry, with a decided difference of opinion within on the subject of that glass of claret-cup, and will probably find that the hats and cloaks have all been thrown on the floor and mixed well up by some excited and unscrupulous person, so that it takes half-an-hour to sort out the right ones. Now, that the epoch of Cinderella is closing round us and the papers are full of advertisements on the subject, it would be as well if people reflected a little and considered whether this sort of thing can be regarded as pleasure, and whether they would not enjoy themselves more if they stayed away. It is quite certain, moreover, that if they sent the price of their tickets to the charity in whose behalf the Cinderellas are got up, the charity would benefit more largely in the long run.

Mrs. O'Shea, who has obtained a notoriety as great as that of Lady Hamilton herself, is the third and youngest daughter of the late Sir John Page Wood. Those who have come into contact with her describe her as a singularly pleasing, not to say fascinating, woman. Although no longer young, Mrs. O'Shea retains much of her youthful beauty, and her figure is tall and graceful. Her face is of the oval type, her eyes are a bluish grey, and her hair is rich and brown. In her early days she used to take an active part in amateur theatricals, and possessed a good voice. Her eldest sister is Lady Barrett-Lennard, and her second, the Mrs. Steele whom she so cruelly brought into court by the unfounded allegation against her of misbehaviour with the gallant Captain. Mrs. Steele is known to the literary world and the reading public as the authoress of "Gardenhurst." Sir Evelyn Wood is their brother.

I am glad to see that the Press has taken up the case of Mr. Hearson, an Engineer R.N., who is now on his way to England to be tried for desertion from the *Mersey*, at Chatham, in September last. This officer applied, on September 5, to be placed on half-pay, with the object of taking up an appointment under the Chinese Government. On September 23 his application was refused, and he at once tendered his resignation. On October 13, being still without a reply, although he had telegraphed to the Admiralty in the interval, he started by mail for the east. He was subsequently arrested at Singapore, and, as he is to be tried in England, he is practically sure to lose his Chinese post as well as being dismissed the Service.

As far as I can discover, there is nothing in the regulations that can authorise the Admiralty to retain an officer in the Service against his wish, and my experience has shown me that whenever influence can be brought to bear, no objection is made to similar applications. Mr. Hearson apparently, however, had no interest, and consequently his application was simply ignored. But, sure, under any circumstances, an officer is entitled to an official reply. Mr. Hearson, however, received none. The trial will deserve to excite great interest in naval circles, as it is hoped that the powers of the Admiralty with regard to retaining officers in the Service will now be settled once for all.

A large and influential meeting was held at the Guildhall, London, a short time since, with a view to relieving the oppressed Jews in Russia.

The first resolution was moved by the Duke of Westminster who pointed out that the English nation was most friendly to Russia, and wished it well. Yet no apology was needed for the meeting to-day; it was, on the contrary, supported by precedents without number. It was a protest in the name of England against a system of persecution which had no parallel in any of the civilized countries of the world. The resolution was couched in the following terms:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting, the renewed sufferings of the Jews in Russia, from the operation of severe and exceptional edicts and disabilities, are deeply to be deplored and that in the last decade of the nineteenth century religious liberty is a principle which should be recognized by every Christian community among the natural human rights."

It was seconded by the Lord Bishop of Ripon, and carried unanimously.

Next came a motion proposed by the Earl of Meath, to the effect "that a suitable memorial be addressed to his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, respectfully praying His Majesty to repeal all the exceptional and restrictive laws and disabilities which afflict his Jewish subjects; and beg his Majesty confer upon them equal rights with those enjoyed by the rest of his Majesty's subjects; and that the said memorial be signed by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, in the name of the citizens of London and be transmitted by his Lordship to his Majesty."

CARDIFF is not the only place that boasts of a peer for May. Lord Bute's example has been followed by Lord St. Leonards who has accepted the civic chair of Devonport for the ensuing year. Devonportians have felt rather out in the cold, and are jealous, during the past few months, while such great festivities have been going on at Plymouth, but now that they have an Earl for Mayor, and a member of the Royal Family as command-in-chief, doubtless good feeling will reign again.

In many respects the Chinese are a most rational and practical race. Here is a case in point. During a recent anti-foreign riot at some place between Tong-tu and Kaiping, the mob, by way of emphasising its patriotic sentiments, destroyed a good length of the railway that has recently been carried through the district. The local Mandarin—a Chinese Ruskinite apparently—instead of using the forces under him to quell the riot, sent his soldiers to assist in the pious work. The embankments were levelled to some distance, and the rails thrown into the river, and an attempt was made to destroy the bridges. Mr. Kinder, the head engineer of the line, laid the state of the case before the Toatoi of Tientsin who is the head director of the undertaking. The Toatoi sent the Mandarin, and addressed him thus:—

"To please yourself and friends you have destroyed the railway. To please me you will put it back just as it was before. If one day from to-day, the trains are not running the same as before, you