

ENGLISH SOCIETY GOSSIP.

Since the famous announcement of the betrothal of Lady Burdett-Coutts to Ashmead Bartlett there has been no such cry of astonishment as is raised over the matrimonial arrangements of Sir Edwin Watkin and Mrs. Ingram, widow of the proprietor of the Illustrated London News. Sir Edward is seventy-three and Mrs. Ingram is eighty-three years old. Sir Edward Watkin lost his first wife some two years ago. She was the daughter of a prosperous manufacturer, Jonathan Miller, at Oldham. Her fortune enabled Sir Edward Watkin to jump from behind the counter in his father's dry-goods store into the fields of speculation, which have made him one of the most powerful railway magnates in England. His foundations for popularity rest mainly on his purchase of Snowdon, the highest mountain in his native Wales, and in his Channel tunnel scheme from Calais to Dover. He has converted even Gladstone to believe in this scheme, which is pressed in Parliament from year to year. A singular feature of this match is that Sir Edward has a son who is married to a daughter of Mrs. Ingram. The Ingram family make no concealment of their distaste to the alliance, because they consider that their mother is old enough to know better, and because she has a large fortune entirely at her own disposal, which they do not desire to see diverted from the family. Sir Edward has been breathing vengeance and threatening a libel suit against any one who suggests that it is not for the octogenarian lady herself that he has a regard but for her money. Several newspapers have already been obliged to apologize for insinuations in that direction.

Hundreds of people visited Christie's auction rooms, St. James, to view the famous Hargreave jewels, previous to their sale last Monday. In fact this has been a week of noted auction sales, which have been attended by agents for rich bidders not only here but in America.

Earl Granville's family silver brought astonishing prices. One dinner service, understood to be purchased for New York, sold for \$13 per ounce. As it was the intention of most of the purchasers for America to get their plate

in free of duty, it was impossible to obtain the names.

Even the Dowager Duchess of Marlborough has joined in the popular craze for auctions. She turned over to a firm of Bond street art dealers two famous candelabra which were heir-looms of the Blenheim estate, and for which high prices had been bid in advance, but the Earl of Abingdon obtained an injunction restraining the Duchess from selling these family treasures. The Bond street dealers have been instructed not to part with them pending legal proceedings.

The most important bric-a-brac sale of the week was the late Samson Wertheimer's collection, which attracted connoisseurs from all parts of the world. Wertheimer was the father of the young man who figured so conspicuously in Belle Bilton's amours. Wertheimer's career affords a striking illustration of how the possession of certain qualities may advance any man in the world. Sixty years ago, young Samson Wertheimer, a ragged, penniless boy, sought refuge in London to escape conscription. His life here began in a cellar in Leicester square. Afterwards he kept a little shop in Greek street, Soho, where his imitations of old metal mounts procured for him a commercial success. Finally he became proprietor of a shop in Bond street and the wealthiest bric-a-brac dealer in London. He never succeeded in learning to speak English accurately, nor could he either read or write, but his judgment as to works of art was supreme.

There is consternation among Britishers at the prospect of Anne Hathaway's cottage, at Stratford-on-Avon, being lugged off bodily to the Chicago Exhibition. It was publicly advertised for sale last week, and two of the biggest bids came from Americans who are anxious to take it to Chicago. The trustees of Shakespeare's birthplace have tried to raise money enough to buy the property, but, so far, their efforts have come to nothing.

THE JEWELLERS.**Jackson & Mylius.**

76 Gov't St., Colonist Building

CAMPBELL THE TAILOR

Has now in his shop the largest stock of

Spring Suitings

ever exhibited in this city.

Over 1,000 Pant Patterns and 500 Suitings have already arrived, and more to follow.

Prices Down in the Basement.

B. C. District Telegraph

—AND—

Delivery Company, Ltd.**MESSENGER SERVICE**

Prompt, and Reliable.

TELEPHONE 409

OFFICE: 64 DOUGLAS STREET**Chas Rattray,****COAL OFFICE**

28 Store Street, Victoria.

TELEPHONE 197.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA
BUSINESS COLLEGE**

43 GOVERNMENT ST.

Thorough Courses in Business Penmanship, Bookkeeping and Arithmetic.

A CLASS FOR LADIES HAS BEEN FORMED.

Visitors are cordially invited to call and see our rooms, specimens, etc. Artistic and visiting cards executed.