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Selections.

Lord Randolph Churchill has been going through a series of farewell entertainments during last week preparatory to his departure on the 24th, Captain Giles, who has already started to organise the expedition, and Mr. Gwynth Williams accompanying him; and, if the authorities can be persuaded to allow him to go, Surgeon-Major Parke will go with him as medical officer. Lord Randolph will be away for nine months, returning to London in time for the opening of the next Session. Lady Randolph will remain at Newmarket during the season with her mother, Mrs. Jerome, the house in Connaught Place being let for the season to Captain and Lady Agneta Montagu.

Talking about Arnold's new poem, the New York Critic says: "It is interesting to know that the idea of *The Light of the World* was suggested to Sir Edwin Arnold by Henry M. Stanley. It was as the correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph as well as of the New York Herald, that Mr. Stanley made his second expedition to Africa, in 1874, to rescue Livingstone, who, as it proved, had died during the previous year. Returning to England in 1878, one of the persons he met first and of whom he saw the most was the editor of *The Telegraph*. Sir Edwin was then at work upon *The Light of Asia*, which appeared the next year and scored an immense success. Mr. Stanley read it before it was given to the public, and was profoundly impressed by its beauty. 'Now, if you would take the Christ as the central figure of such a poem,' said he, 'and lavish upon it the same wealth of language, you would command an audience as wide as the civilized world.' The poet expressed no disinclination to the task, but seemed to feel considerable doubt as to his power adequately to treat so great a theme; Mr. Stanley continued to urge him, yet it was not till years afterward that the plan of *The Light of the World* took final shape in Sir Edwin's mind."

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