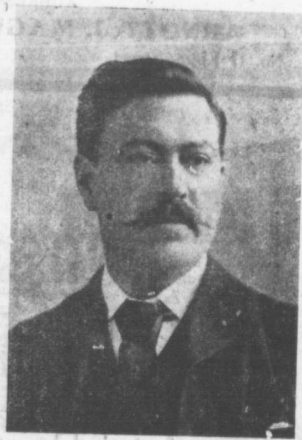


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JANUARY 23, 1904

EVENTS

PUBLISHED
WEEKLY



The Keystone
of Empire
The Two
New Ministers

Wellington's
Opinion of
Napoleon
English
Bye-Elections

GEO. E. DRUMMOND
Elected President of Montreal Board of Trade for 1904.

The RIDEAU PRESS, Ottawa, Can.

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Vol. 5.

A NOTE
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EVENTS

Published Weekly.

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Vol. 6, No. 4.

OTTAWA, JAN. 23, 1904.

Whole No. 253.

The Key Stone of Empire.

A NOTABLE speech was made by the Prime Minister of Canada at the first annual banquet of the Canadian Club of Ottawa held in Harmony Hall, Jan. 18. The Governor General (the Earl of Minto), the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and the leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons, Mr. R. L. Borden, K.C., were present and unanimously elected the first honorary members of the Club, which has in the short space of three months grown to a membership of 750. The wonderful growth in Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton and other places of these Canadian clubs seemed to strike the political leaders with some force and both alluded to it and neither seemed quite to understand it. Some day a young man will come out of the West to interpret it for them.

The Prime Minister dwelt on the fact that Canada was a nation with a population larger than many of those European states who had made name and fame in history—such as Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, Sweden and Norway. This led him to consider Canada's status as a colony of Great Britain which he did not regard

as incompatible with the largest measure of Canadian independence. He believed that Canada's need of self-government called for the bestowal of still larger powers, such as the power to make treaties in behalf of Canada subject to the King, and any proper supervision on behalf of the Crown. Like Sir Charles Dilke Sir Wilfrid Laurier believes, and said, that instead of these larger powers being inimical to Great Britain or the tie that binds us to that Kingdom such a step would save the tie and make it still stronger. He contrasted the Roman Empire with the British Empire, showing that the Roman Empire was a military despotism holding in thrall all the civilized countries of the world at that time, and all of which bordered on the Mediterranean. A central legislature dispensed laws and all parts of that Empire had to observe them or suffer the consequences. The British Empire was widely scattered in different portions of the world. What, he asked, is the bond of our Empire, which is so effective, potent and powerful? It is the power of local autonomy and self-government given to

such great colonies, as Canada and Australia. This principle, he said, was not known to the world at the time of the American revolution in 1776 and Canada was the first to struggle for its recognition and to unfold it under a parliamentary system before the eyes of the world. If that principle had been recognized in 1776 by Great Britain the United States might have today been a part of the British Empire. Some years later the concession of this principle to the rebels in Lower Canada converted them from treason to loyalty. Sir Wilfrid expressed the hope that he would live to see a thoroughly united Canada, developing her territory in peace and with prosperity. The Roman Empire, translated in one word, was war; the British Empire is peace. With this outlook he declared that the nineteenth century had been the century of the United States, but the twentieth century would be the century of Canada. With this great sentence the Prime Minister concluded a brief but very notable utterance.

Lord Minto's speech at the dinner was refreshing. He even made a joke over the habit of a public speaker desiring to make "a few remarks." He feared that some few remarks he had made on previous occasions had excited some criticism, but on this occasion he felt free to speak on Canada and her future and he did so in excellent taste and, in fact, made quite a model speech.

As usual the speech of Mr. R. L. Borden, the Opposition leader, was in good taste, well delivered, and appropriate to the occasion.

The Presidents of the Canadian Clubs of Toronto and Hamilton were present, and altogether the affair looked like the first of similar gatherings which would always preserve the national character which distinguished this one.



CAPERING AT LAST.

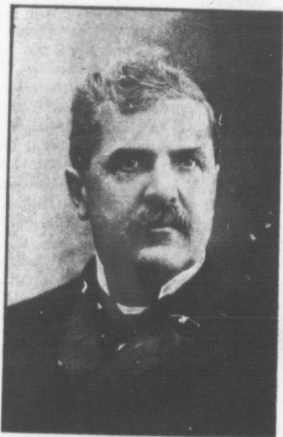
The Times: I've been longing to caper for years past, and I've only been waiting for a piper.

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New Minister of Railways.

THE expected appointment of Hon. H. R. Emmerson, M. P. as Minister of Railways and Canals was made on the 15th inst. as announced in Events last week. Mr. Emmerson is interested as a public man in the effective operation of the Intercolonial. In fact his seat in parliament



Hon. H. R. Emmerson.

practically depends on the efficient public service of the railway department, and he may, therefore, be relied on to control that system as far as possible from the standpoint of the public interest. He is a New Brunswicker and will represent that province in the cabinet.

According to the Canadian Parliamentary Guide he is a son of the Rev. R. H. Emmerson, a Baptist clergyman, and of English and United Empire Loyalist stock. He was born in New Brunswick fifty years ago, is an LL. B., a practising barrister, and a member of the senate of Acadia University. The first time he ran for the House of Commons, in 1887, he was defeated. As a member of the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia he voted to abolish that body, but a sufficient number of his colleagues did not have that moral courage and the measure was not carried. He became a member of the Executive Council of New Brunswick in 1891 and was appointed Minister of Public Works for the province in 1892. In 1897, on the retirement of Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Emmerson became Premier and shortly afterwards went to the country and swept the province.

In the autumn of 1900 he resigned that position in order to attempt to carry for Sir Wilfrid Laurier a county which had gone Conservative in 1882 and remained Conservative for fourteen years. This task he accomplished so successfully as to be returned with a majority of 486.

Mr. Emmerson has occupied the position of President of the Baptist Union, and has been connected with some prominent commercial undertakings.

It will be seen, therefore, that he is a representative man, is known to be an able one, and is expected to fill acceptably the high office to which he has been called. Personally Mr. Emmerson is a plain man, disdaining artifice, disliking "frills", and dealing with other men in a straightforward and frank manner. He is also a strong platform speaker and a good parliamentary debater.



A FELLOW FEELING.

Political Traveller: Well, if Mr. Hays' G.T.R. branch service is as uncertain as this one my sympathies go out to the people of Ontario—Toronto World.

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English Bye-Elections.

THE bye-elections in England continue to go against the Conservatives and against Mr. Chamberlain. In Norwich the Liberals deplored a split in what they termed the Progressive party by the appearance of two candidates, Mr. Louis Tillet, Liberal, and Mr. Roberts, Labor. The Liberals offered to put up one candidate only at the general elections so as to give the second seat to labor, but the labor man declined to accept this compromise and both went to the polls against Mr. Wild, the Unionist candidate, with the result that Mr. Tillet received 8,576 votes, Mr. Wild, 6,756 and Mr. Roberts, the Labor candidate, 2,440. The cablegrams say that this free trade victory is the worst blow Mr. Chamberlain has yet sustained, as Norwich has been a safe Conservative constituency for many years and the anti-Chamberlain vote amounted to 11,000 out of a total of less than 18,000.

In a Devonshire election Mr. Chamberlain wrote to the Unionist candidate urging the support of his scheme in the interests of agriculture. The result of the election was the return of the Liberal candidate Mr. Eve, by a majority of 1,476, or very nearly double the majority of 771 by which Mr. Seale-Hayne held the seat in 1900.

At a bye-election in the Ludlow division of Shropshire the Conservative and pro-Chamberlain candidate received a majority of 970 as against a majority in 1893 of 3,819, an enormous falling off.

Mr. Reginald Lucas, Unionist member for Porsmouth, has announced that owing to his inability to support Mr. Chamberlain's proposals he will retire at the next election.

As we have ventured to say on two or three different occasions the press cablegrams to the Canadian daily papers would lead one to suppose that the United Kingdom was turning over to Mr. Chamberlain without a dissenting voice, while the actual results of the elections show that the electorate of the United Kingdom are not favorable to Mr. Chamberlain.



Joe: "I think I could manage the German and the American, but what am I to do with this big dumping from Canada."
—English Cartoon.



HON. L. P. BRODEUR, M.P.
New Canadian Minister of Inland Revenue

THE retirement from the post of Minister of Inland Revenue of Mr. Brodeur has been a popular one. His popularity as a Speaker of the House of Commons was the result of his article in the House of Commons on the salary of the Speaker. He is a younger and more vigorous man than his predecessor, and his retirement from his post is a loss to the Government.

AND THE MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE, Mr. Brodeur, has been appointed to the post of Minister of Inland Revenue. He is a man of great ability and has been successful in his previous posts. He is a man of great energy and has been successful in his previous posts. He is a man of great energy and has been successful in his previous posts.

The New Minister of Inland Revenue.

THE retirement of Hon. M. E. Bernier from the government has led to the appointment of Hon. L. P. Brodeur to be the Minister of Inland Revenue at Ottawa. Mr. Brodeur has been Speaker of the House of Commons since 1900, and his ability and popularity were recently alluded to in an article in this paper suggesting that the Speakership should be made permanent and the salary adequate. He is one of the younger and progressive men of the province of Quebec and is certain to receive from his colleagues in public life a warm

welcome as a cabinet minister. He is a native Canadian, 42 years of age, an LL.B. of Laval University, and a member of the Bar since 1884. He was first elected to the House of Commons for Rouville in 1891 and has carried that seat at two subsequent general elections with increasing majorities, the last time by over one thousand. At the previous three general elections the seat had been Conservative, so that Mr. Brodeur evidently made a strong candidate. The new Minister was sworn of office on the 19th inst.

An Important Investigation.

THE commission appointed by the Minister of the Interior to investigate the application of electricity to the smelting of ores will sail for Europe in a few days. It consists of Dr. Haanel, the mineral and chemical expert of the Department, an Ontario electrical engineer, and Mr. Thomas Cote of Montreal and Ottawa who is to assist in the study of the question and who is very competent to aid the commission in many ways. It seems that at the

present time we have in Canada an abundant supply of refractory ores and black or iron sand, the commercial possibilities of which are limited unless there is applied the most modern system of reduction by process of electricity. This small commission may on its return to Canada enable the Minister of the Interior and the government to act in such a way as to create at once many millions of additional natural wealth in Canada.

EVENTS

Published Weekly.

ARNOTT J. MAGURN, Editor.

VOL. 5. JAN. 23, 1904. No. 4

THE permanent railway commission of Canada, which is not to be confounded with the commission for the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific, has been completed and consists of Hon. A. G. Blair, Chairman, Professor J. Mills, of Ontario, and Hon. M. E. Bernier of Quebec. We perceive, therefore, that the commission consists of two ex-members of the Laurier administration, Mr. Blair, ex-minister of Railways, and Mr. Bernier, ex-minister of Inland Revenue. Mr. Bernier only left the ministry this week. He was appointed Minister of Inland Revenue in June, 1900. Professor Mills has been principal of the Guelph Agricultural College for many years and is an unusually able man.

ON the 5th of January Mr. G. G. Sanderson was elected by acclamation to the House of Assembly in Nova Scotia. On the 12th of January Mr. George A. Cox was elected as the Liberal member for Shelburne, to fill the vacancy in the House of Assembly caused by the death of the Hon. Thomas Johnson, by a majority of 275 over Mr. W. F. MacCoy, Recorder of Halifax. Surely this can't be the result of Mr. R. L. Borden's recent tour of the province which was stated at the time to be such a swinging success. But then he discussed federal and not provincial issues.

ONE Ottawa daily paper is making little paragraph jokes about the strike of four hundred employees at the paper factory of the E. B. Eddy Co. in Hull. One would think that a lockout of over four hundred persons from their daily employment and all the dislocation of business of a large firm with its numerous customers would form the subject for serious study and serious remark, but most of our daily papers have not the courage to express an opinion except on party politics.

We do not pretend to know the rights of the Eddy strike but feel free to say that a local paper dealing with that calamity should make it a business to ascertain the facts and to form an opinion and speak out on the right side. On general principles a strike is a mistake, but the strikers, or the employees, are not always in the wrong. With regard to these labor troubles we have expressed strong views within the past two years and the matter is really so very serious that the writers for the press ought to give their sober and best attention to it.

PREMIER BALFOUR in his recent speech at the United Club declared that a large army as supplementary of the navy is not required for home defence. He inclines strongly to the opinion that the defence of India occupies the foremost place. The Committee of Defence of which Mr. Balfour is himself the president, and the commander in chief a member, has proposed that the South African garrison should be maintained at a strength of 25,000 troops and should be available for despatch to India. According to a London paper, commenting on these things and regretting that Mr. Balfour did not indicate the policy of the government as to this South Africa and India proposal, states that Mr. Arnold Forster, the Secretary of State for War, is taking steps to repair Mr. Balfour's blunder by procuring Canadian troops for India. Are Canadians aware that according to some of the gifted writers for the British press we are being used as pawn in a game relating to South Africa and the hundreds of millions of Mohammedans in the far East?

AT a meeting held in Kingston, Ont., on the 15th inst. it is said that one hundred persons volunteered to fight with Japan against Russia in the event of war. It is safe to say that not two of the hundred have any permanent employment and it would do them no harm to go to war on the China Sea, but they must not try to mislead the public. It is just a case of adventure and nothing to lose. We have no doubt that there are a hundred or two

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hundred in every city of the Dominion willing to go and soldier in Japan, or any other old place, provided their transportation is paid and they are fed and clothed.

THE Princess Mathilde, who died Jan. 2 in Paris was the last surviving niece of Napoleon. Most of the women of the Bonaparte family were remarkable in some way or another. She was remarkable in many ways. She was as beautiful as Pauline Bonaparte, and, like her, a great patron of artists, though not with such daring patronage as Pauline extended to Canova. She was witty and spirited and generous. Louis Napoleon fell in love with her before his Boulogne failure; but her mother, a German princess, rejected him and married her to Prince Demidoff, to whom her father, Jerome, one of the least reputable of the Bonapartes, owed a great deal of money. After five years she was separated from the Prince, who was forced by the Czar to allow her £10,000 a year, and she went to Paris where she became a great leader of society under the Empire and also under the Republic.

MR. R. L. BORDEN, the leader of the Conservative Opposition in the House of Commons, has been working hard on the stump ever since the session closed last October under the impression that we were to have a general election probably next month, only to end up in the Eastern townships on the 17th inst. on the day that the news was received that another session of parliament at least would be held to begin early in March. It may partly be said that these speeches and these meetings have not been wasted, but

also partly that in view of new legislation some of the arguments may have to be either revised or expanded. Mr. Borden must wish that the newspapers had not brought on the winter general election. He was misled. These newspapers are such poor guides. As late as the 9th inst. one of Mr. Borden's supporters telegraphed out to his papers, not with the object of misleading Mr. Borden but it may have had that effect, that the rumor of another session of parliament before dissolution was a trick by the Liberals "designed to put Conservatives off their guard" The chief Conservative correspondent at Ottawa was too suspicious, as everybody knows now there is to be another session, beginning March 10.

IT is said by some that the government are calling a session to submit Grand Trunk Pacific legislation modifying the contract in some respects because the government blundered in this matter last session. Well, as one of those who opposed the Grand Trunk Pacific project, we do not desire the government to call a session and remedy any blunders. Friends of the government, however, insist that they are showing wisdom in being willing to repair immediately any mistake that was made. The G. T. P. if constructed at all will not be completed, it is now evident, for a number of years. In the meantime the government should take any opportunity in its power to bring together the two ends of the important Canadian Northern system which Messrs. Mackenzie and Mann are so rapidly building up and extending with characteristic energy, prudence and foresight.

Wellington's Opinion of Napoleon.

IN a book just issued by the publishing house of John Murray we have the most authoritative anecdotes of the great Duke that it would be possible to obtain, seeing that they fall from the lips, as it were, of one who was on terms of closest intimacy with the famous fighter. The volume is entitled "Personal Reminiscences of the Duke of Wellington: By Francis, the first Earl of Ellesmere. Edited by his daughter, Alice Countess of Stafford." In proof of his possession of more than ordinary acquaintance with Wellington, Lord Ellesmere says that there were few mornings of the London season which he did not pass at Apsley House, while at Strathfieldsaye he coursed with the Duke, shot with him, hunted and on one occasion, played tennis with him. It is therefore obvious that if any man had opportunities of discovering the Duke's true character and hearing his opinions on events of the hour, that man was the Earl of Ellesmere. One of the most interesting pronouncements is that made by Wellington upon his great antagonist's ability as a military commander, a judgment which may not have been altogether unprejudiced, for human nature is weak and apt to err when "taking the measure" of an annoying opponent. It is as to Napoleon's "policy" that the Duke is severe—

He considered Napoleon as the greatest master on record in the art of handling large masses, and deriving the greatest possible advantage from superiority of numbers and resources; further, as the most dangerous of all commanders in front of whom to make a false movement. He assented to the popular French dictum that his presence with his army was to be valued at forty thousand men. As to his policy, "that was all bullying."

This sounds fairly complimentary, as do the words the Duke used when replying to Mitchell, the author of the "Life of Wallenstein," who had spoken in disparagement of Napoleon's military talents. Said Wellington, "Napoleon was the first man of his day on a field of battle and with French troops." But, and with the sting in the tail, he added, "I will confine myself to that. His policy was mere bullying." The word "bullying" was apparently a favorite term of reproach with the Iron Duke when he had or made occasion to speak of his enemy. As Lord Ellesmere has adopted it so frequently it may be reasonably assumed that it was written in the way of quotation. In another part of the book is the following—

Napoleon's system he believed to be very simple and effective—that of bullying with much noise and smoke, puzzling his cautious adversaries as to his point of attack, and massing under cover of light troops and guns his own people on one or two points. His cavalry he used with skill and effect in masses which moved forward, not fast, and occupied a position till the infantry could follow and secure it. "He tried this," he said, "with me at Waterloo, and when he had placed his men on the ground he probably concluded that, according to precedent, I should retire, but I moved up thirteen regiments of infantry and destroyed or disorganized the cavalry before he could follow up the rush."

Which conclusively proves that Wellington considered himself more than a match for Napoleon in strategy.

We get this little snapshot of the Duke on the eve of Waterloo—

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"When the Duke sat down to his late dinner in the evening of Waterloo there were many vacancies, as the table was laid for its usual complement of guests. He ate little, and his eyes were constantly directed to the door, in the hope of some of those missing might yet arrive. That hope was vain. No one entered. He retired soon to write his despatch, but before doing so he held up both hands and exclaimed, 'The hand of God has been over me this day!'

The Sir Harry Smith alluded to, a gallant soldier, told Lord Ellesmere that he had never been in any action in which the smoke so completely prevented any general conception of what was going on—

When the French made their great attack on our centre in the very thickest of this phenomenon, a lull suddenly occurred. For some minutes not a shot was fired, and nothing could be seen by those not engaged. When at last the cloud cleared away there were the scanty lines of red in their old position, and a cheer along the whole line saluted the glorious spectacle.

But the Duke's keen sight penetrated the smoke, and in this connection an incident, evidencing the high importance he set upon the power of observation, and the extent to which he himself possessed that power, is recorded—

The Duke and Croker, travelling in a carriage together, played to pass the time a game which consists in guessing at the description of the objects to be first met with after crowning a hill or turning a corner. The Duke had greatly the advantage, and when Croker observed upon his success, said, "You don't consider that I have been passing my life in guessing what I might meet with beyond the next hill or round the next corner."

Once more we meet the well-known phrase, said to have been uttered by Wellington that Waterloo was won upon the playing fields of Eton; and once more it is declared emphatically that there is no foundation for the statement. Never-

theless, it is a singular fact that the Duke won his first fight at Eton. On that occasion his Napoleon was one "Bobus"—otherwise Robert—Smith. The cause of the combat, and the combat itself, presented a curious combination—

Smith was bathing, and was pelted from the bank by young Wellesley. He threatened to get out and thrash him, which the other dared him to do. He got out and fought without dressing, and was defeated in three or four rounds. Biographies of Lord Clyde have it that the reliever of Lucknow entered the army as ensign in the 9th Regiment of Foot. According to this book Colin Campbell was "discovered" by the Duke of Wellington—

He was in the commissariat service in India and had volunteered for an assault on a hill fort. The Duke saw a little round man run up a ladder, and, receiving a pike thrust at the top roll down like a ball to the bottom. He was however up again in an instant, and, running up like a squirrel was the first, or among the first in the place. The Duke laughed, inquired about him, and procured him a commission.

Among other characteristics of the Duke we find these--that he flatly refused to read anything referring to his own military career, and that he was a fiddler of some ability. Mrs. Stuart Mackenzie, an old friend of the Wellesley family, wrote the following letter—

Lord Ellesmere spoke of the great hero's first victory at Eton School. I know of a second more characteristic, which I have never seen mentioned, and which, if you will allow me, I will relate to you. Every one knows that to the last the Duke was fond of and a fine judge of music; in youth he was a performer on the violin, of which he grew so fond that, giving up a great deal of time to it, he began to fear lest the hereditary taste should get the better of him, and in one day he broke the spell, laid aside his violin, and never afterwards touched it.

A Bayswater Scandal.

By Frank Richardson

"I've never heard of such a thing!" said Mrs. Pegram.

"It's too terrible," said Mrs. Cutcott, "and quite a strange man!"

"And she seemed such a nice woman in her way," said Mrs. Wigley.

Mrs. Pegram's drawing room in Cleveland Square was tense with excitement. The ladies were holding an inquest on a reputation, and each face expressed a certain ghouliah satisfaction over the pursuit. In the back drawing-room Nelly Pegram—scarcely yet of years to purvey ripe counsel or bitter comment on the matter—sat reading the new "Society" paper, M. A. N. (Mainly About Nonentities), a journal devoted to the interests of the uninteresting. Occasionally she was summoned to bring a cup of tea or a cucumber sandwich to one of the matrons who required sustenance in the stress of the discussion.

"Are you really quite sure?" asked Mrs. Pegram.

"As certain as I sit here. You could have knocked me down with a feather," answered Mrs. Cutcott.

Mrs. Cutcott, a woman of huge bulk, spoke metaphorically. No engine less potent than a battering ram could have effected her overthrow.

"I have seen him come out of Mrs. Lashbridge's house at all hours of the day. You see their house is almost opposite ours in Gloucester Terrace. I cannot be mistaken."

"What aged man is he?"

"About thirty-five and very smart. Con-

spicuously well-dressed. And, my dear, he seemed devoted. Quite the courtier. Nearly every afternoon they go out driving together."

"Well, well! I never heard of such a thing!"

"What can poor Mr. Lashbridge be thinking of?"

Little Mrs. Lashbridge whose character was under dissection, had, since her marriage a couple of years before, been a source of irritated speculation to the leading ladies of Bayswater. Her husband, a young solicitor in an old-established firm in Lincoln's Inn, was living in a manner that met with slight approval in the district. For one thing, he drove to his office in a phaeton. For another, he gave dinner-parties at the Carlton instead of at his own home. Indeed, his whole conduct was such that a speedy appearance in the Bankruptcy Court, or an even more horrible form of financial scandal, was eagerly prophesied for him by his wife's friends.

Also, Gwendolen's extravagance was on a level with her husband's. She bought her dresses in Paris, in itself a "bad sign"; she was never to be met at the ladies' club which assembled every morning to discuss local affairs, semi-scandals, illnesses, and offspring between the nicknack and the oddment departments at Me Quisker's.

True, she was good-natured. She never refused the request for the loan of any Parisian importation that one of the experienced matrons required to be copied by a "sw-

ful maid." She had had the reputation since "People who cannot afford. Poor little palace, and s discourtesy ti

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ful maid." "About no one in the neighborhood had she ever said an unkind word—a reticence susceptible of the stock comment: "People who live in glass houses, my dear, cannot afford to throw stones."

Poor little Mrs. Lashbridge had acquired the reputation of living in a crystal palace, and she was rapidly earning the discourtesy title of "That woman."

It may therefore be imagined with what enthusiasm Mrs. Cutcott's account of her association with "the strange man" was received in Cleveland Square.

The condemnatory chorus continued:

"I've never heard of such a thing—in the neighborhood."

"I know what the upshot will be. I feel it. The papers will be filled with 'The Bayswater Divorce Case.' There'll be a nice thing."

"Perhaps," said Mrs. Cutcott, "I shall be compelled to give evidence."

"O, my dear!" cried Mrs. Pegram, not altogether without envy.

"What will you wear?" asked Mrs. Wigley.

"I think," replied Mrs. Cutcott after deliberation, "that the little foularde bought at Woodland's sale would be the very thing. You know you always liked me in it, Emily."

"Of course, it depends at what time of the year the case comes on," said Mrs. Pegram, whose brother was a County Court Judge, and who knew more of the technique of divorce than the other ladies present. "It takes a long time for a case to come on. Supposing it's tried in the winter?"

"Then I should certainly wear my furs," said Mrs. Cutcott with decision. "In any event I was going to have them altered. Yes, I rather fancy my mink would do very well. You know that at the opening of the Bazaar in aid of the Decayed Bayswaterian Gentlewomen, the Princess of Zalmon von Luckstein admired my furs very much. Indeed, she thought they were sables."

"The dear Princess is so short-sighted" said Mrs. Wigley, "who was somewhat envious of Mrs. Cutcott's appearance in the witness box. That mountainous matron chewed the end of anticipatory triumph.

"I daresay it will be a very fashionable divorce case. I shouldn't be at all surprised if he turned out to be a lord or a very smart stock-roker. Then all the papers will have pictures. Yes, I should prefer to wear my furs. And, perhaps, a violet velvet toque—with an osprey, do you think?"

The question of the osprey was then duly discussed and, provisionally, settled.

With regard to Mrs. Cutcott's divorce court dress, Mrs. Pegram made an excellent suggestion.

She said:

"My dear Muriel, Mrs. Lashbridge has got a new gown from Beer's. It would suit you perfectly. She paid twenty-five guineas for it in Paris. At least, that's what she said. Not that I should believe a single word that fell from her lips—after what we've heard. Why not ask her to let you show it to your little woman in the Ledbury Road that clever little woman that makes up one's own material? She could use your beautiful old Point de Calenbourg lace, and it wouldn't cost you more than ten or eleven guineas at the most."

"No, that I can't do," replied Mrs. Cutcott with portentous dignity. "Another cup of tea, please, Nelly dear."

Nelly ministered to Mrs. Cutcott and retired in all humility.

"I'm sure she'll let you. That woman has no sort of self-respect. She allows anybody to copy anything she wears," said Mrs. Wigley.

Mrs. Cutcott then explained her reason of her inability to adopt Mrs. Pegram's scheme. She said:

"I decline to know the woman. My husband and I had accepted an invitation of theirs to dine at the Carlton. This morning I sent round to say that I was feeling far from well, and that it would be impossible for me to stir out of the house."

"Quite right!" said Mrs. Wigley.

"And at the Carlton, too! Just what I should have done," said Mrs. Pegram.

"Exactly what I did," said Mrs. Winterbotham. Mrs. Winterbotham, the wife of one of the leading local medical men, had not hitherto contributed anything of value

to the discussion. She had behaved as one possessed of superior knowledge on the matter. Palpably she had been lying low.

"Were you invited?" came the general query.

"Yes—I was. But I refused immediately."

"Really!"

"Why?"

"At the Carlton, too! I dote on the Carlton!"

"Fancy!"

"What excuse did you make?"

"I made no excuse. It was not necessary after what I knew. I simply wrote that Doctor and Mrs. Peter Winterbotham could not accept Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Lashbridge's invitation. That was all I said. Nothing about 'regret' or 'kind' invitation. I don't think that woman will ever show her face in my presence again. But one never knows. These people are so peculiar."

"But what do you know?"

"Tell us, Priscilla."

"Nelly, go up to your room and see if Carter is ready to try on your new bo-lero."

"Now, Pris."

"Well, it was like this," said Mrs. Winterbotham, evidently enjoying the eagerness with which the other women were waiting for her words. She felt that her self-sacrifice in keeping her surprise till this moment had met with an ample reward. "It was like this. Last Wednesday I was driving along the Fulham Road—"

"Yes, yes."

"Go on."

"I must tell the story in my own way. You do put me out so. I really don't know where I am. No: it was on the Thursday that I was driving along the Fulham Road I had been given the address of a little woman who used to be at Kate Reilly's. 'Madame Vilette' she calls herself. Well, she had made a costume for Lady Lesborough—quite a dream, only eight guineas and a half. I don't think you know Lady Lesborough. She's a patient of my husband's. A martyr to rheumatic gout, she says; but I must tell you all about it some day. Still, she's a very refined woman, I

will say that for her. You couldn't meet anybody pleasanter—that is, socially—in society. Well, you may imagine that she's not easily satisfied. No, I can't give you Madame Vilette's address because I promised not to. You see she has more work on her hands as it is than she can do. So it wouldn't be fair, would it? Of course, if she doesn't suit me—"

"Yes, yes, go on."

"My dear, I'm telling you as fast as I can. You see, it happened this way. Just as my carriage drew up in front of the dressmakers, Mrs. Lashbridge's brougham stopped—where do you think?"

She paused rhetorically, and not as one expecting an answer.

"—At a pawnbroker's!"

The sensation was immense.

"She came out with a strange man—no doubt, the dressy man Mrs. Cutcott spoke of—and went into a low, common pawnshop! There's a thing. I prophesied it all along. Living at the rate they do, living in the way she does! What can you expect? That's what I always say. What can you expect?"

"Had he a light moustache, like a military man, and a sort of overcoat like a frock coat?"

"He had."

"Then it's the lord."

"Or the stockbroker."

"And did he seem very devoted?"

"Well, my dear, what do you expect? But that isn't all," said Mrs. Winterbotham, warming to work. "Madame Vilette wasn't ready to try on my dress; you know how disappointing these people always are. So when I came out Mrs. Lashbridge's carriage was just driving off, and—"

"Yes, yes."

"Go on, dear."

"You may believe me or not as you please, but it stopped in front of another pawnbroker's and they got out again."

"God heavens!"

"You may well say that! I believe she's pawning everything she's got. If one pawnbroker won't advance what she requires she goes to another, and so on. No wonder they can afford to go to restaurants and what not."

"If you could afford to."

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"If you call that 'affording' anybody could afford it," said Mrs. Pegram, bitterly.

"I call it borrowing from Peter to pay Paul," said Mrs. Wigley.

Mrs. Cutcott described the process as being even worse.

"And look at her craftiness" cried Mrs. Winterbotham, scornfully, "to go as far out of the neighborhood to do her pawning!"

"And to take the strange man!"

"In her own carriage, too!"

"He's at the bottom of the whole thing."

"That's just what I think," said Mrs. Winterbotham.

"Perhaps you'll have to be a witness, too, Pris," interjected Mrs. Cutcott anxiously.

"Possibly—if my husband will let me. Still, it's a horrible case to be mixed up in," Mrs. Winterbotham answered. "I shall wear my ermine."

At this moment the parlourmaid announced:

"Mrs. Lashbridge!"

To a rustle of hostile skirts a dainty little woman, exquisitely dressed, entered the room.

As though not suspecting that she was more than suspected, she scarcely seemed to notice the coldness of her welcome; she ignored the fact that Mrs. Pegram offered her no tea. She had forgotten or forgiven the insult of Mrs. Winterbotham. She did not even congratulate Mrs. Cutcott on her sudden restoration to rude health.

She was full news, and the gist of it was this:

"We have had a most terrible time. Our upper housemaid turned out to be a thief. She has stolen ten pairs of muslin curtains, a pair of field glasses and a lot of Theodore's clothes; everything she could lay her hands on without attracting attention. We had to have the poor woman arrested. It

seems that her husband made her do it. So at the police court this morning I spoke to the magistrate—such a dear old man, who didn't make any puns or anything—and he let her off. Fortunately we've got all the property back. Her husband, who turned out to be a real terror, had forty paw-tickets on him when he was arrested. But I've had to go with Inspector Williams—such an intelligent man!—to all the pawnbrokers in London to identify the things. Such a tiring week! It's far worse than shopping! Do, please give me a cup of tea, dear Mrs. Pegram."

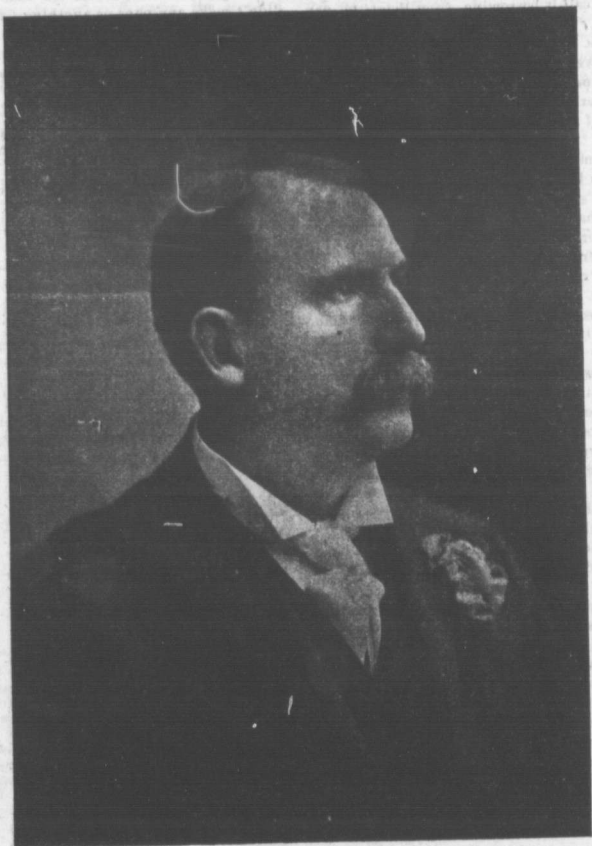
A solemn sadness settled over the assembled matrons.

They felt that they had not done well.

Suddenly the light of mischief shone in Gwendolen's eyes. "O, Mrs. Cutcott, I'm delighted to see you looking so well. Really, Mrs. Winterbotham, if your husband's secretary writes your replies to invitations, I should get a new one, I should indeed, and, by the bye, I'd forgotten to tell you, we're going to move out of the neighbourhood—to Mayfair. Theodore has taken a charming house in Tilney Street, number 124."

When Gwendolen left Cleveland Square, she took the sunlight with her.

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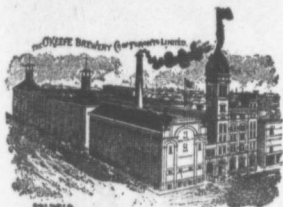
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