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The last number of *The Sunbeam* contains an article under this head, and in proof of the favourable working of destiny in the fortunes of individuals, instances the extraordinary elevation of the present King of the Belgians.

"The distinguished individual was the mere action of a German stock, possessing of himself an income unequal in its amount to that which even a clerk of some few years standing in the Treasury department would receive, and far inferior to the profits of business of many a fourth or fifth rate tradesman of London. His good fortune or destiny guided him to England, where, in spite of the many opposing influences that were arrayed in fearful aspect against a probability of the occurrences that subsequently took place, he was introduced to the court and to the heiress presumptive of England. Be it remembered, that at that time it was contemplated to bring about a marriage between the hereditary Prince of Orange and the Princess Charlotte of Wales. This prince, under the malign aspect of political events, had been long resident in this country, holding a commission in the 10th Light Dragoons, and had paid devoted attention to the royal object of his affections, who, however, was known to be averse to the union proposed.—In this state of things, destiny, through the agency of female policy and diplomacy, as worked out by the well-contrived schemes of the Duchess of Oldenburgh, stepped in to the accomplishment of an arrangement. The Prince of Coburg was introduced, and had the good fortune to take the attention of the Princess Charlotte which was no sooner perceived by the experienced duchess, than she determined on a speculative manœuvre to turn up for her relative the royal card that should carry the game. She immediately set her wits and contrivances to work, and as a first step, opened a communication with the great Jew millionaire, Rothschild and laid before him the exact state of events, as in her view and contemplation they appeared to promise a favourable result. The great capitalist, with his usual discrimination and foresight, saw the perfection of the scheme, and immediately communicated to the prince that he could draw on his (R's) house for any sum of money he should want in support of his dignity. This grand arrangement effected every opportunity was of course embraced that could tend to encourage the feeling of preference that the princess had already evinced for the fortunate prince, who ultimately became the avowed object of her affections; and in spite of all opposition by the regent, her father, the only person whom she would hear of or assent to as her affianced husband. All remonstrance was useless; and it was, therefore, advisable to cede to the princess's wishes. Thus, the impulse which destiny gave to the progress of the Prince of Coburg was the opposing and counteracting agency to the fortunes of the Prince of Orange; in other words, the success of the one was the death blow to the hopes of the other. The heir to the throne of Holland was discarded; and the poor German prince, whose most sanguine expectations could never have led him beyond the hand and fortune of an English lady, was, on a sudden, raised to almost the highest dignity of the kingdom, receiving therewith an income of nearly treble the amount of the sovereignty of the state of which he was a native, and from which he had set out the mere soldier of fortune. But the impetus which destiny had first given to his fortunes, had borne him only half way in his marked career.—Subsequent events with which every Englishman is too well acquainted, deprived the prince of his betrothed, and he became a widower, with the ample provision of about £60,000 per annum. Trace we next the long chain of political and other events—the downfall of Napoleon—the restoration of the Bourbons—the French

revolution of the three days in July, 1830, and the elevation of Louis Philippe to be throne of the French; and following this, the separation of Belgium from Holland, and the election of this same Prince of Coburg to the throne of the newly created kingdom; and lastly, the second union of this most fortunate individual with the daughter of the King of the French, the accession of fortune consequent thereon, and the great security given to his throne by his connexion by marriage with the two greatest powers of Europe.—Reflecting on such a marked and extraordinary career, can it be said that it was produced by the common course of things? The individual so marked out as the favoured of fortune is, by no means, distinguished by talent or enterprise above other men."

Imperial Parliament

The Imperial Parliament was prorogued by the Queen in person, on Thursday the 16th August. The following is the speech delivered by her Majesty :-

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"The state of public business enables me to close this protracted and laborious session.

"I have to lament that the civil war in Spain torrens an exception to the general tranquillity. I continue to receive from all foreign powers the strongest assurances of their desire to maintain with me the most amicable relations.

"The disturbances and insurrections which have unfortunately broken out in Upper and Lower Canada have been promptly suppressed, and I entertain a confident hope that firm and judicious measures will empower you to restore a constitutional form of government, which unhappy events have compelled you for a time to suspend.

"I rejoice at the progress which has been made in my colonial possessions towards the entire abolition of negro apprenticeship.

"I have observed with much satisfaction the attention which you have bestowed upon the amendment of the domestic institutions of the country. I trust that the mitigation of the law of imprisonment for debt will prove at once favourable to the liberty of my subjects, and safe for commercial credit; and that the Established Church will derive increased strength and efficiency from the restriction of the granting of benefices of plurality.

"I have great pleasure in giving my assent to the bill for the relief of the destitute poor in Ireland. I cherish the expectation that its provisions have been so cautiously framed, will be so prudently executed, that whilst they contribute to relieve distress, they will tend to preserve order and to encourage habits of industry and exertion.

"I trust likewise that the act which you passed relating to the

compositions for tithe in Ireland will increase the security of that property, and promote internal peace.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"I cannot sufficiently thank you for your despatch and liberality in providing for the expenses of my household and the maintenance of the honor and dignity of the Crown.

"I offer you my warmest acknowledgments for the addition which you have made to the income of my beloved mother.

"I thank you for the supplies which you have voted for the ordinary public service, as well as for the readiness with which you have provided means to meet the extraordinary expenses rendered necessary by the state of my Canadian possessions.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"The many useful measures which you have been able to consider while the settlement of the Civil List and the state of Canada demanded so much of your attention, are a satisfactory proof of your zeal for the public good. You are so well acquainted with the duties which now devolve upon you in your respective counties that it is unnecessary to remind you of them. In the discharge of them you may securely rely upon my firm support, and it only remains to express a humble hope that DIVINE PROVIDENCE may watch over us all, and prosper our united efforts for the welfare of our country."

The manner in which this was delivered surprised many who had not before heard her Majesties agreeable, and silver-toned voice; it excite great admiration. If any part of the speech could be singled out as telling more forcibly than another, we should select the last paragraph. It was uttered as if in solemn prayer!

The Queen had upon her brow, for the first time, the royal crown; before the coronation she either wore a chaplet or a small circlet of diamonds.

Her Majesty was decorated with the riband and order of the garter; she wore a magnificent diamond necklace, and a stomacher of the same costly material. Under her robe she had on a white satin dress trimmed with gold tissue.

After the delivery of the speech the Lord Chancellor again knelt, and received her Majesty's commands relative to the period of the prorogation, which his lordship thus announced :-

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"It is her Majesty's royal will and pleasure that this parliament

prorogued to Thursday the 11th day of October next, to be then here holden and this parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the 11th day of October."

The Queen then rose, and descended the steps of the throne, preceded the same way as on entering by the great officers of state.

The speaker and the members of the commons then retired, as well as the peers and peeresses who were present during the proceedings.

Important to Farmers, &c.—

How to preserve scythes, sickles, reaping hooks, and other iron and steel tools from rust after the season for using them. Wipe them clean and dry, then hold them before the fire and keep drawing them backwards and forwards until warm enough to melt wax; then take some bees' wax and rub it all over. A halfpenny worth of wax will be sufficient for a scythe. Then put it in a dry place but not warm; it needs no other covering. The usual method is to wrap a dry hay band round; but in the winter time this naturally contracts a moisture, or the drmp air strikes in betwixt the folds of the hay band.

The Dykes of Holland.—These remarkable works are proofs of what the ingenuity of man, when called into action by urgent necessity, can effect; they afford great, if not certain, protection against the force of the ocean, which would overwhelm the entire flat country where it not for the resistance of artificial bulwarks. We are not entering upon a description of those works: our object being simply to point out the means which have been resorted to, to add strength and tenacity to the embankments. There is a plant, a native of England, common on some wild places, which, in consequence of the wiry toughness of its roots, has acquired the name of "Restharrow;" the Hollanders sow the seeds on the top of the dykes; the roots penetrate, intertwine, and spread in all directions; bind the earth into a compact mass, and enable it to hold together, and resist the impetus of the ocean.

As the Emperor Charles the 5th was passing a village in Doragon, on Easter day, he was met by a peasant who had been chosen the paschal or Easter King of his neighbourhood, according to the custom of his county, and who said to him very gravely, "Sir, it is I that am King." "Much good may it do you, my friend," replied the Emperor, "you have chosen an exceedingly troublesome employment."

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