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PUNCH, OR THE LONDON CHARIVARI.

VOL. 150. APRIL 19, 1916.

CONTENTS: CHARIVARIA. — METHODS OF A GERMAN MISSIONARY. — UNWRITTEN LETTERS TO THE KAISER. — GRASS VALLEY ARMISTICE. — SAINT GEORGE OF ENGLAND. — GLORY O' ENGLAND. — THE ROLLING STONE. — ROUND ABOUT THE RESTAURANTS. — ESSENCE OF PARLIAMENT. — A NIGHT OUT WITH A ZEPPELIN. — TO CHARLOTTE BRONTË. — AN UNRECORDED ENGAGEMENT. — ECONOMY IN THE PRESS. — NOT RUNNING TO SEED. — NURSERY RHYMES OF LONDON TOWN. — OUR BOOKING-OFFICE.

[257]



Overworked and exasperated Colonel (who has told Adjutant to answer the telephone). 'Well, what the blazes do they want?' Adjutant. "It's the C.O. of the Blankshires, Sir; wants you to repeat the funny story you told him last night at mess."

CHARIVARIA.

The recent Zeppelin raids have not been without their advantages. In a spirit of emulation an ambitious hen at Acton has laid an egg weighing 5-1/4 oz.

The opponents of Colonel Roosevelt regard the advice given in the title of his new book, *Fear God and take your own part*, to be unusually moderate as coming from one who, whatever he may have said to the contrary, is very generally suspected of being prepared to take the part that is at present being played by President WILSON.

At a meeting of the "No-Conscription Fellowship" last week, Mr. PHILIP SNOWDEN referred to the Conscientious Objectors as the "Salt of the Earth." Perhaps, but we don't care to have them rubbed into us.

Germany has addressed a Note to the United States explaining that the *Sussex* could not possibly have been torpedoed for the reason that the submarine commander who sank the vessel had no difficulty in drawing a picture of her which closely resembled a totally different ship.

It is announced that the care of the great vine at Hampton Court has been taken over by the Office of Works from the Board of Green Cloth. It is rumoured that the latter body, which has been of late somewhat lost sight of, is to be entrusted with the general supervision of our aerial forces.

So successful have been the electrically-heated footwarmers supplied to the police of Pittsburg, Pa, that the State Department is said to be contemplating their adoption.

For shouting "The Zepps are coming!" a Grimsby girl has been fined £1. It was urged in defence that the girl suffered from hallucinations, one of which was that she was a daily newspaper proprietor.

While announcing in Parliament last week that the Zoo would have to pay the Amusement Tax the CHANCELLOR promised to "keep an open mind in regard to any representations that might be made on the subject." Mr. McKenna, we understand, has since received a strong representation from the hippopotamus, protesting that, while he and his fellow-pachyderms are commonly considered as instructive, their natural dignity precludes them from attempting to provide amusement in any form.

"In twenty years' time," says Mr. PEMBERTON BILLING, "the aeroplane will bring about universal peace." This statement will come as a distinct shock to many who imagined that with Mr. BILLING at Westminster it might be expected to achieve this desirable result in about twenty days.

The Gaslight and Coke Co., in the interests of economy, are proposing to abandon the painting of street lamp-posts. The chief patrons of these institutions, they say, will be quite satisfied as long as the lamp-posts still feel the same to the touch.

A woman doctor has lately advanced the theory that talking leads to long life; but an attested married man of our acquaintance assures us that this is a mistake, and that it merely makes it seem longer.

"BURY MARRIED MEN AND LORD DERBY."

Provincial Paper.

A tempting solution of the Government's problem, but perhaps a little too mediæval for these times.

METHODS OF A GERMAN MISSIONARY.

[See note to Cartoon on opposite page.]

The Sultan soliloquises:—

MEHMOUD, the gilt is off your idol's crown; Clear shows the clay beneath the chipped enamel; In sporting phrase, your dibs have been planked down On the wrong camel.

This WILLIAM had a God he called his peer, And yet must needs take on a new religion; Spoke well of Allah; in His Shadow's ear Cooed like a pigeon;

Pressed you to join him in a Holy War; Advanced the wherewithal you badly needed; And taught you how to go for Christian gore The same as he did.

And now, where Afric's fountains fling their balm, In his last place within the sun, 'tis written With how remote a love for dear Islam Your Bosch was bitten.

He hoped to stamp your creed out, branch and root; This missionary meant to take your Arabs And crush their souls beneath his mailéd boot Like crawling scarabs.

And if they still ignored his ponderous heel, If still their faith in Allah stood unshaken, He looked to stimulate a local zeal For heathen bacon!

UNWRITTEN LETTERS TO THE KAISER.

No. XXXVII.

(From Dr. LIEBKNECHT.)

If such trifling matters as the meeting of the Reichstag now occupy any portion of your Majesty's attention, it may please you to learn that my membership of that august body has been temporarily suspended. At the same time I should be sorry that your Majesty should labour under any misapprehension as to what happened. No doubt I was forbidden to speak, though I am the representative of people whose voices have a right to be heard even in the unhappy Parliament which is all that the German Empire is allowed to provide for the subjects of the German KAISER. But I wish you to understand that I was not silenced before I had said aloud nearly everything that I had in my mind to say. It is true that I did not make any formal speech. The bellowing blockheads who now arrogate to themselves the name of patriots and all the virtues of patriotism were easily able to prevent me from doing this, and I was forced, therefore, to confine myself to short and sharp interjections thrown in at appropriate moments while BETHMANN-HOLLWEG, that arch-impostor, was proving to the whole world that even if Germany had a good case he is the last man who would be able to place it in a convincing manner before the judgment of the world.

Your Majesty has had a long practice in the use of words. You pride yourself on the glorious and beneficial effect of such speeches as that in which you condescendingly praised the Almighty for having allied Himself with you, very much, as it appeared, to His own advantage, or that other speech in which you announced to your conscripts their duty to shoot down their parents if in some momentary whim you ordered them to do it, or even that other brave and Imperial harangue in which you declared your humane and merciful designs on the Chinese people. I have no doubt, then, that if you could be induced to speak your opinion fairly and openly you would admit that, though you yourself could, of course, have done better, I did not do so very badly in my little bout with poor BETHMANN. At any rate I spoke the truth, which is an inconvenient course of conduct, and made BETHMANN look the fool that everybody (except, perhaps, your Majesty) knows him to be.

Indeed, your Majesty, a fool who is also arrogant is a very terrible thing. When BETHMANN, for instance, spoke of Germany's love for her neighbours, and in particular for the small nations, he delivered himself into my hands. All I had to do—and I did it —was to remind him that he proved his love by jumping upon them and strangling them. In a moment the whole fabric of his stupid argument was shattered and he was left gaping open-mouthed and without an answer before the whole world. The incident showed the man's mind and his disposition in a lightning flash, and from all countries, even from wretched Belgium and from ruined Serbia, there came a laugh of hatred and contempt. Why are we so hated? Not because we are great and powerful and prosperous, but because we make our greatness an incubus, our power a tyranny and our prosperity an offence.

Fools like BETHMANN do not see this. They and their fellow-fools, some of them quite brilliant men, with high notions on literature and music and the drama, are for ever in a state of jealous fear. They have the mania of persecution and imagine that all other countries are leagued against them for the purpose of wiping Germany off the map. Then they lose their unfortunate heads and strike out blindly to right and left. The other nations have no course open to them except to defend themselves as best they may, and then Herr BETHMANN and his superior fools shout out that this wicked defensive proves up to the hilt that when they spoke of conspiracies they were fully justified and that Germany for her own safety must smash and in the end control every other country under the sun.

And yet, your Majesty, the time will come when we must have peace. This pouring out of blood, this tremendous waste of money and lives must some day have an end. Those are the best patriots who would put a stop to it as soon as possible, for the longer you defer peace the more difficult it becomes to make it. We have been told of great victories, but they profit us not at all. All is desolation and cruelty and confusion. And those who think most of Germany know best how bitterly she needs peace.

Your truth-telling but suspended subject,

LIEBKNECHT.

"The Liar's Punishment.

"*The Matin* points out the predicament in which the German High Command must have found itself yesterday when editing its daily *communiqué*. No doubt it wished to place on record with all customary exaggeration the slight advantage gained on the slopes of the Dead Man. But how can the German High Command state this convincingly when for over a week it has solemnly announced the complete capture of the Dead Man? It has therefore to maintain silence as the only expedient."—*Evening News*.

On the principle: "De mortuis nil nisi bonum."

"We are told that the maximum of the income-tax duty will be reached at five shillings in the pound, a figure that will recall the Budgets of the Neapolitan wars."—*Irish Paper.*

When, as now, Vesuvians were so heavily taxed.

[259]



LOVE ME, LOVE MY PIG. [Captured documents show that the German Government had schemed to stamp out Mohammedanism in East Africa both by force and by the encouragement of pig-breeding.]

[260]

GRASS VALLEY ARMISTICE.

"'E didn't mean to do it," he said, touching the bandages on his head. "Oh no, quite an accident. It was a foo-de-joy—doorin' the armistice. Wot, haven't you 'eard of Grass Valley Armistice?"

I said I couldn't recall it for the moment.

"It was doorin' September," he said; lasted two hours. Sergeant Duffin started it.

"'E was out on a patrol one night, and suddenly 'e comes rashin' back over the parapet and goes chargin' down to the Major's dug-out with a face like this 'ere sheet.

"'They'me comin',' ses Bints 'oo was next to me, and we were just goin' to loose off a round or two, when we 'eard ole Duffy 'ollerin' in the Major's bunk.

"'Barbed wire's gone, Sir,' 'e ses.

"'Wot?' ses the Major.

"'Ave to report the wire's gone,' ses Duffy again.

"'Tell Lootenant Bann,' drawls the ole man, as if someone 'ad told 'im tea was ready.

"When Bann 'ears the noos, 'e fires a light up.

"'Can't see none,' 'e mutters, quite annoyed, and off 'e goes over the top to find out for sure. In 'alf-an-hour 'e was back again.

"'The blighters 'ave pinched our wire,' 'e ses to the Major. 'They've drawed across them chevoo-der-freezes I put out, and stuck them on their own dirty scrap-'eap.'

"'Fetch 'em back,' says the Major, very off-'and like.

 $"\ensuremath{\mathsf{Right}}\ensuremath{\mathsf{O}}\xspace,\ensuremath{\mathsf{Says}}\xspace$ Bann. 'Right-O.' For 'e'd spent three solid hours puttin' the wire out.

"'Fetch a pick an' some rope,' 'e ses to Duffy. 'I'm goin' to 'arpoon our wire.' Then he ties the rope to the 'andle of the pick and trots off over the parapet.

"After a bit we 'ears the pick land amongst the barbed wire with a rattle like a bike smash, an' the next minit back comes young Bann, sprintin' like a 'are an' uncoilin' the rope on the way.

"'Now then,' he shouts, jumpin' into the trench, 'man the rope!' an' we lines up ready down the communication trench. "Aul away,' 'e 'ollers, an' back we goes, pullin' like transport-mules.

"It give a few inches to start with, an' then a foot or two, an' then, just when the wire must 'ave been 'alf-way 'ome it suddenly stuck fast.

"'Must 'ave caught on summat,' ses Bann, an' sets off with 'is wire-cutters to clear it.

""Eave,' grunts ole Jones at the end of the rope. "Eave-o, my 'earties,' an' then 'e knocks up against the ration-party comin' 'ome down the communication trench. "Ang on, mates,' 'e shouts to them, an' down goes the bully bif, an' the next minit a loud rip an' some bad language told us 'is coat couldn't stand it.

"We got some more chaps at it then, but the rope never budged an inch.

"Then Bann comes runnin' back again, very excited-lookin'. 'Look out!' he shouts; 'the Bosches 'ave got a rope 'itched on, too.'

"Sure enough, the next minit the Germans puts their weight on, and pulls 'alf of us right over the bloomin' parapet.

"The Major comes along then, and when 'e sees the state of things 'e looks quite solemn, for there was only Lootenant Bann and ole Jones left in the trench.

"Where's the team?' 'e snaps, as severe as if you'd come on parade without your rifle.

"'Fall in, tug-o-war team,' sings out Duffy, and our eight, 'oo 'ad been lookin' on rather superior like, moistens their 'ands and stands to.

"'This is your work,' ses the Major to them, very significant.

"'Take the strain,' 'ollers Duffy, and the evenin' doo fair streamed out of the rope when they put their weight on. Back goes our team, two foot at least, whilst the lads cheers and yells as if we was winnin' the divisional prize on Salisbury Plain again.

"By this time the Bosches was just as excited as we were. They was rushin' about in the open with our men, 'owling their lingo and firin' off their rifles for encouragement. I stopped a shot somebody 'ad aimed at the sky for joy.

"When old Binks and the German chap 'oo 'ad done it was carryin' me back to our trench, I saw the Major come rushin' past.

"'Go it, men,' 'e sings out to our chaps, and then off 'e sprints again, to finish a bet he was makin' with the German officer.

"For an hour and a 'alf the excitement was awful. Up and down went that wire until the place looked like a ploughed field. First we gained an inch, then Germany 'ad a couple, then England gets one back, and up goes our caps again. Everybody was rushin' about yellin', and ole Binks, 'oo knows a bit of German, made a nice bit of money at interpretin'.

"Then things suddenly got worse. Our eight 'ung on like 'eroes, everyone swearin' 'e wouldn't loose that rope if 'e was pulled into the KAYSER's bloomin' bedroom; but sure enough the Huns was slowly winnin'. Inch by inch we saw our chaps give way, black in the face at the notion of bein' beat. The Bosches yelled like 'eathens, and was shakin' hands with everybody. Then all of a sudden young Bann comes rushin' up to the Major, 'oo was takin' four to one with a chap from Coburg.

"'Stop, Sir!' I 'ears 'im shout. 'Stop the contest! The dirty blighters are usin' a windlass.'

"'Wot?' 'owls the Major, goin' purple at the thought of international laws bein' disregarded like that.

"'Take the men off the rope,' 'e orders. 'We hunderstood we was pullin' with gentlemen,' 'e ses very dignified, and then thinkin', no doubt, of the four to one in dollars 'e 'd 'ave won if they'd played fair 'e orders us to stand to and give them ten rounds rapid; and 'e used such language on the telephone that the Artillery thought we was attacked, and loosed off every shell they could lay hands on. So the War started again, you see.

He touched his head and thought a minute. "That was Grass Valley Armistice," he said finally, and relapsed into silence.



WAR ECONOMY. Street Hawker (to chatty old lady). "Yes, Mum, I'm being badly 'it. Yer see, all my bisness comes under the 'ead of luxuries."

"In Prize Court Attorney-General read affidavit showing there were gangs in Germany, America and other neutral countries engaged in evading our blockade."

Liverpool Echo.

It will take more than an affidavit to convince us that Germany is a neutral.

[261]



OUR ADOPTED ALIENS. He. "That's Mannheim—chap I was speaking about." She. "Made in Germany, I suppose?" He. "No. Made in England—only born in Germany."

SAINT GEORGE OF ENGLAND.

His Day, April 23rd.

- $\ensuremath{\mathsf{SAINT}}$ George he was a fighting man, as all the tales do tell;
- He fought a battle long ago, and fought it wondrous well;
- With his helmet and his hauberk and his good crosshilted sword,
- Oh, he rode a-slaying Dragons to the glory of the Lord.
- And when his time on earth was done he found he could not rest
- Where the year is always Summer in the Islands of the Blest,
- So back he came to earth again to see what he could do, And they cradled him in England—
 - In England, April England—
- Oh, they cradled him in England where the golden willows blew!
- SAINT GEORGE he was a fighting man and loved a fighting breed,
- And whenever England wants him now he's ready to her need;
- From Creçy field to Neuve Chapelle, he's there with hand and sword,
- And he sailed with $\mathsf{D}_{\mathsf{RAKE}}$ from Devon to the glory of the Lord.
- His arm is strong to smite the wrong and break the tyrant's pride;
- He was there when Nelson triumphed, he was there when Gordon died;

He sees his Red-Cross ensign float on all the winds that blow,

But ah! his heart's in England—

In England, April England—

His heart it dreams of England where the golden willows grow.

SAINT GEORGE he was a fighting man; he's here and fighting still,

While any wrong is yet to right or Dragon yet to kill;

And faith! he's finding work this day to suit his war-worn sword,

For he's strafing Huns in Flanders to the glory of the Lord!

SAINT GEORGE he is a fighting man, but, when the fighting's past,

And dead amid the trampled fields the fiercest and the last

Of all the Dragons earth has known beneath his feet lies low,

Ah, his heart will turn to England-

To England, April England—

He'll come home to rest in England where the golden willows blow.

[262]

GLORY O' ENGLAND.

(At the "Plough and Horses.")

"Glory o' England, be passin', sure 'nough."

"She been passin' ever since I been 'ere to tell o' it, seems to me. 'Ow be she passin' now more 'n ordinary times, Luther Cherriman?"

"Way as is nearest to sudden death, George. 'Er young men gettin' that soft an' sloppy-like that there ain't no tellin' some of 'em from gals."

"Gals be comin' 'long won'erful—not much to complain o' wi' they. Drivin' motors, they be, an' diggin' an' all."

"Times be changin' fast; nigh time women wore the breeches an' done wi' it, now."

"I did think as our lads was doin' their bit middlin' well, too, out to Front. I did seem to 'ear they 'd counted f'r a German or two, first an' last."

"Fightin' Germans is a man's *work* just to present—if 'e be strong 'nough an' young 'nough an' all rest of it. But ye can't judge a man by 'is work 'lone, not to make a proper man of 'im. Sport did used to be the glory o' England, in my young days. An' now the young uns ain't got spunk 'nough to shoot a rabbit."

"That be an 'ard sayin', Luther, if ye like. 'Oo be you 'ludin' to partic'lar?"

"I be 'ludin' to young Squire—'oo did ought to set a good 'xample in this 'ere village, if anyone ought."

"'E were th' first to go when th' War broke out, though 'e be th' only son of 'is parents. An' more 'n 'alf of our chaps went 'cos of 'im, so 'tis said."

"That's all right, far as it goes——"

"I've 'eard say as 'e 've got a few more t' join ev'ry blessed time 'e've been 'ome on leave. They do say 'e be mortal keen."

"I don't say nothin' 'bout 'im shootin' Germans—I knows nothin' 'bout that. But in these 'ome fields I 'ave seen what I 'ave seen—no longer ago 'n yesterday."

"Be it too much to ask ye, then, what ye 'ave seen, Luther?"

"I seen a sight as tells me glory o' England be on th' wane. I seen young Squire loppin' 'bout 'ome fields an' 'is bits o' span'els at 'is 'eels same as ever. An' yet 'e looked that strange like I couldn't take m' eyes off of 'im. An' then it come over me all of a sudden what 'twas. 'Where be y'r gun, Sir?' I shouts to 'im over th' stile." "What did 'e say to question personal as that?"

"'E come up to me an' I sees 'e got bunch o' daffodils in 'is 'and. 'These things smell o' Heaven,' 'e says, smilin' quiet. 'My gun is in the rack, Cherriman,' 'e says, 'where it's like to be.' 'Lor' love me, Sir,' says I, 'that do be strange, surelye, wi' th' rabbits 'oppin' 'round y' feet like a lot o' gals courtin' o' ye.' 'Strange,' 'e says; 'but we lives in strange times now, Cherriman. An' I've seen slaughter 'nough in Flanders to serve me for th' moment,' 'e says."

"'E said that?"

"'E did. An' white 'e went as 'e said it—you see the white comin' up under the brown of 'im."

"Pickin daffs?"

"Like some bloomin' gal."

"Didn't 'e say nothin' more?"

"'You dunno what it's like,' 'e says, 'to be back in this old place—to smell the good old Sussex clay, to watch the plovers flyin', to pick these flowers. You dunno what it's like, Cherriman,' 'e says, 'seein' you ain't come back to it from 'ell. Rabbits be safe 'nough from me now,' 'e says, an' drops his daffs all unknowin' like an' goes off at a mooney stride. An' 'e finest shot in th' county, some do say—an' I believes 'em!"

"Teh, Luther—stop yer jaw! There be young Squire a-comin'. An' bless me if 'e ain't ..."

"Here, you two old rascals, I've been looking for you—for you, anyhow, Cherriman. Here's a rabbit apiece for your suppers—shot 'em myself."

"Thank ye kindly, Sir. But I thought as you'd give up shootin'?"

"I thought so too, Cherriman—till I saw your face in the field yesterday. And then I said to myself, I must regain Cherriman's respect if it means the hardest bit of shooting I've ever done here or in Flanders."

"That's right, Sir! Don't do to let glory o' England die. Thank ye kindly for rabbits, Sir—us'll enjoy 'em proper."

"Hope you'll break your last tooth on them, Cherriman-that's what I hope."

"Glory o' England's more to me, Sir, 'n an 'ole set o' teeth at my time o' life."

"MARRIED MEN PROPOSALS EXPLAINED."

"Evening News" poster.

Are not these revelations just a little hard on our friends' wives?

The Art of Journalistic Expansion.

"The 'Russky Invalid' states: 'The Caucasus army has performed a miracle which in military history will be remembered for years to come.'"—*The Age (Melbourne).*

"'General Russky, though an invalid, and his Caucasus army,' declares *The Messenger*, 'have performed a miracle which military history will remember for years to come.'"

The Argus (Melbourne).

THE ROLLING STONE.

At Cambridge, where on field or flood He shone like a GOLDIE or a STUDD, He was an intellectual "blood."

He made the grimmest dons unbend, And missed his First, right at the end, For he cut his Tripos—to nurse a friend. Then he wrote a novel. The weekly press Declared it was worthy of R.L.S.; But it wasn't a great financial success.

So, after a spell at the Bar, he flew To the rubber-fields in remote Peru, But stayed there only a month or two.

For he suddenly conceived a plan Of studying music at Milan, Where he sang in the style of the great god Pan.

I heard him sing in the Albert Hall In the chorus of MENDELSSOHN'S *St. Paul,* And his voice was the loudest of them all.

Next he leased a Colorado mine, And dealt in Californian wine, And rented a ranche in the Argentine.

But whatever the job and whatever the pay I certainly never knew him to stay Anywhere as long as a year and a day—

Except one job, which is not yet done, Though twenty months ago begun, Of holding and hammering the Hun.

His horoscope I have never scanned, But as long as there's any fighting on hand The rolling stone has come to a stand.

Irreplaceable.

Evidence of a conscientious and candid objector:-

"I am sure the Rector could not get anyone to take my place, as Cowley is now empty, and there are no loafers about."

Gloucester Citizen.

"The first cases to come before the tribunal were appeals from three Thirsk butchers, for the exemption of their respective slaughtermen. Mr. Johnson said he killed himself about 20 years ago. He thought he would start again."—*Darlington and Stockton Times.*

Very difficult to repeat the first fine careless rapture of a successful suicide.

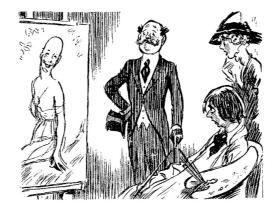
"No, while it is a crime to spend money extravagantly on dress, it is just as emphatically one to abstain from it altogether."

Daily Chronicle.

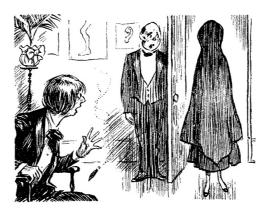
If *The Daily Chronicle* says so, we accept it. There is no paper for whose judgment we have a more profound regard.

[263]

MR. PUNCH'S POTTED FILMS. THE DRAMA OF STUDIO LIFE.



Clarence Allardyce, the rising young artist, cannot in all London find a model worthy to pose for the hair in his masterpiece, 'The Wood Nymph.' On the eve of the exhibition he tells his trouble to his friend, Charles Carfax, who, with his fiancée, has visited the studio.



That evening, as he sits in his studio bewailing his lot, a mysterious visitor is ushered in.



She unveils her head, and in due course the masterpiece is finished.



The Next day a fashionable crowd throngs Allardyce's studio to view the picture before its departure to the exhibition. Among them is Carfax, who, recognising his fiancée's hair, is overcome with rage and threatens to destroy the picture.



As he is about to execute his fell purpose he is stopped by his fiancée. 'Stay!' she cries. 'It is not as you suppose. It *is* my hair, but—I wear a wig. I sent it to him by post.' By this noble lie she saves the picture at the cost of her matrimonial hopes.



Cast off by Carfax, the heroine visits the exhibition alone. There she is found by Clarence, who asks her to share with him the fame and fortune which she has brought him.



Face Massage Specialist. 'No doubt, Sir, your speeches on Frightfulness have affected your expression.' *Prussian Orator.* "Well, you must do the best you can for me. Tonight I have to speak on 'Our Love for the Smaller Nations.'"

[264]

ROUND ABOUT THE RESTAURANTS.

The famous QUEX having relinquished the raree show of London—its lunches, its beauties, its theatres, its celebrities and its suppers—to take part in this boring and extremely inconvenient War, how proper that he should be succeeded by a younger *flâneur*! Behold then QUEX MINIMUS busy as a chronicler in your service.

Met Sir Loney Loon at the Fitz, where I had the greatest difficulty in finding a host. Succeeded, however, at last, but as he was an unknown person I do not mention him here. Sir Loney told me he was thinking of standing as Independent candidate when next there is a vacancy, being so utterly tired of the Coalition and all its incompetencies. Fancy, said he, after at least ten years of existence, aviation not being perfect! And the iniquity of any hitch whatever in any department after nearly two years of war! All I can say is I hope the famous magnate wins.

Heard Lord and Lady Provender eating their soup at the Barlton grill, where I had an excellent position behind the screen. His lordship looks older than he did in 1893, when he was in India. Her ladyship was wearing the famous Sheepshanks agates.

Talked to Dicky Post, the famous trainer, after Newmarket. He said it was most gratifying to see how finely racing men took the War. No one could visit the historic course and not realise what a wonderful country England was. To see the jockeys doing their bit on this mount and that, no matter how they might kick or plunge or buck, was a real tonic and indicated what stuff they were made of. He said that M. HUMBERT's recent article on the need for the Allies of France to be as much in earnest as she was, had a very favourable reception on the Heath.

Met, at Liro's, Harry Wagtail, who is the author of most of the best *bons mots* of the day, although they go into circulation usually under other men's names. Paying the new income-tax, he said, will be like selling the gold in your teeth to discharge the dentist's bill.

Watched a famous millionaire at the Vasoy wondering whether he dare flout public opinion and the economy campaign by eating a plover's egg. Finally he got under the table to eat it unperceived, and was most surprised to find me there.

QUEX MINIMUS.

"MIGHT BE DUE TO PICTURES.

"Magistrate and three Leeds youths charged with warehouse-breaking,"

Yorkshire Evening News.

We regret to see that the demoralizing influence of the cinema appears to have extended to the Bench.

"On arrival at the Hook there was nothing left whatever in the way of eatables, and even the greater part of those saved were still in their nightdresses."—Scotsman.

Pommes de terre en robe de chambre, we presume.

A treacherous memory.

[&]quot;A MEMORY.—Thirty-nine years ago Miss Mary Rorke was playing with John Hare, now Sir John, in the famous old play, 'Old Men and New Acres.'"—*Daily Paper.*



THE REPUDIATION. MARTIN LUTHER (*to Shakespeare*). "I SEE MY COUNTRYMEN CLAIM YOU AS ONE OF THEM. YOU MAY THANK GOD THAT YOU'RE NOT THAT. THEY HAVE MADE MY WITTENBERG—AY, AND ALL GERMANY—TO STINK IN MY NOSTRILS."

[266]



GRANDFATHER'S NEW HAT.

ESSENCE OF PARLIAMENT.

Monday, April 10th.—Some sadness mingled with the cheers that greeted the moving of the writ for the Wimbledon Division. The House is pleased that Mr. HENRY CHAPLIN'S long services to the State should have received the customary reward of a peerage, but it will miss his genial and majestic presence. Though an unfortunate accident in 1906 (a year prolific in electoral casualties) debarred him from becoming the titular Father of the House, his venerable appearance, his courtly and old-world bearing, and his full-bodied eloquence gave him an uncontested claim to be regarded as its Grandfather. Lord CLAUD HAMILTON, the only other survivor of the Parliament of 1868, will now feel very lonely.



MR. WILL THORNE.

The best things said at a public meeting are often uttered by an anonymous "Voice." Mr. WILL THORNE is the "Voice" of the House of Commons. Endowed with a fine pair of lungs and a style of delivery that resembles the cork coming out of a

ginger-beer bottle he frequently expresses in his explosive style the collective opinion of his fellow-Members. At Question time Lord ROBERT CECIL referred to the abominable treatment of British prisoners of war at the Wittenberg camp, and said that steps were being taken to circulate in neutral countries the report of Mr. Justice YOUNGER'S Committee. There was a sudden "Pop," and out came Mr. THORNE with "Send it to the conscientious objectors."

On the Second Reading of the Budget Mr. THOMAS O'CONNOR, as the SPEAKER punctiliously calls him, led off with a vigorous attack upon the match-tax. The discovery, made many years ago, that match-making as then conducted caused a painful disease of the jaw first aroused T.P.'s sympathetic interest. He now displayed an intimate acquaintance with the details of the industry and discoursed learnedly on the shortage of muriate of potash for the heads and of aspen for the splints. His argument briefly amounted to this—that the manufacturers of matches, like those of mustard, depended for their profits upon the amount wasted, and that to check public extravagance would destroy the trade.

The aspens on the Treasury Bench did not quiver visibly under this assault. They were more amenable to the criticisms on the railway-tax, which would fall very hardly upon commercial travellers and other business people. Mr. McKenna promised to give careful consideration to the criticisms before the Committee stage. Possibly it has occurred to him that as the Government have undertaken to bring the net receipts of the railway companies up to the 1914 level the Exchequer might have to pay out of one pocket nearly as much as it puts into the other.

Tuesday, April 11th.—One of the French Deputies visiting Westminster thinks us a queer people. He had heard last night the PRIME MINISTER'S stout declaration of the Allies' resolve to bring Prussia's military domination to an end. Again this afternoon he had been told on the same high authority that the late Conference in Paris had reaffirmed the entire solidarity of the Allies and established the complete identity of their views. Then he had walked across the corridor to the House of Lords, expecting, no doubt, to hear the same sentiments expressed in even loftier language. Instead, he had to listen to Lord COURTNEY, in the traditional yellow waistcoat, declaiming with all the vigour of his *premiere jaunesse* against the notion that we should enter into any fiscal relations with our Allies that might imperil the sacred principles of Free Trade.

Lord COURTNEY believes that there is in Germany a large and powerful peace-party, which must not be frightened by any threats of reprisals, and he commends to the Allies in 1916 the example of BISMARCK in letting the Austrians off easily in 1866. Our visitor was a little relieved by the explanation that the orator was an interesting survival of a school of thought now passed away, and represented no one but himself. But he was again puzzled when Lord BRYCE, who knows as much about the manners of the gentle Hun as anybody (witness his report on the atrocities in Belgium), joined in the appeal that we should be nice to Germany after the War.

He was, however, somewhat comforted when Lord CREWE made it plain that the Government did not share Lord COURTNEY's illusions about the strength of the German peace-party, and, having regard to the manner in which Germany had in the past combined commercial expansion with political intrigue, could not hold out hopes that after the War we should do business with her in the same old easy-going way. But if our French friend is still not quite convinced that British statesmen fully realize what the War means to him and his country I don't I think we can altogether blame him.



MARRIED MEN TRACKING DOWN THE SINGLE.

[267]

In the Commons Mr. PEMBERTON BILLING developed his usual Tuesday "hate." But on this occasion there was no reply from the Government heavy batteries; little Mr. REA explaining that as the Hon. Member had failed to warn them of his intention to bombard they had no ammunition ready.

Wednesday, April 12th.—Although, like another noble Earl, Lord SELBORNE is "not an agricultural labourer," he does his best to play the part, and save our food-producers from the maw of the hungry recruiting officer. A representative of the Board of Agriculture now holds a watching brief at every local Tribunal, to see that the Military representative does not have things too much his own way. No wonder that the taxes mount up faster than the recruiting returns.

Time was when Mr. Swift MacNeill successfully dissembled his affection for the House of Lords. To-day his principal object in life is to purge the roll of that illustrious House of the peerages now held by the enemy Dukes of Cumberland and Albany. The PRIME MINISTER was strangely unsympathetic. Legislation would be necessary, and would occupy too much time. "Three minutes," suggested Sir Arthur MARKHAM; but Mr. Asquith was still obdurate, and seemed to think that as the Dukes in question had lost their Garters they were sufficiently down-at-heel already.

When packing his Budget a wise CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER always includes some little tit-bit that he can throw to the wolves if they become too insistent. In the present case the tax on railway tickets was marked for abandonment at the outset, and to-day it met its expected fate.

The Amusements tax was strenuously opposed by Mr. BARNES, on the ground that most of the money would come from the poor; but Mr. McKenna frankly replied that that was just what he intended. He agreed, however, to consider the claim of the Zoo to exemption. The match-makers were partially appeased by a promise that mechanical lighters should not be overlooked. The CHANCELLOR is now in some doubt as to whether he or Æschylus has produced the more notable version of "Prometheus Bound."

Thursday, April 13th.—A provincial paper lately referred to Mr. McKenna as the "Cancellor"—a humorous compositor's way, no doubt, of indicating the modifications in the Budget. Hardly one of the proposed new taxes has survived intact. Even the tax on mineral waters has had to undergo considerable alteration. It was devised to get some contribution towards the nation's needs from those who wear the blue ribbon of a beerless life, and to that end the tax was to be collected by means of a stamp on each individual bottle. But the manufacturers successfully protested that the boys and girls who affix the labels already adorning these gaseous wares could not be trusted to put on stamps as well. Mr. MONTAGU announced this afternoon that the manufacturers would be taxed direct on their certified output. But he did so with obvious reluctance, and as if what was once a sparkling proposition had become indubitably flat and possibly unprofitable.

Our Stylists.

"Now and again a mirthless laugh rose silently to the red banks of her lips."

Grand Magazine.

Signature to a legal notice:-

"Montgomeryshire Horse Repository, E.C., Solicitors for the said Administratrix."

Manchester Guardian.

If "the law is a hass" you are tempted to say, These equine attorneys will answer, "Neigh, neigh."

Fashions for Female Humourists.

"Blouses of the useful variety have jokes in various designs, the sleeves cut in one with the joke are generally a modification."

Provincial Paper.

Our more subtle contributors prefer the latter kind, enabling them to laugh up



Constable (failing to notice insignia of 'Special'). 'NAH, THEN, YOU! GET A MOVE ON YER UNLESS YER WANTS TO BE RUN IN FOR LOITERING!'

A NIGHT OUT WITH A ZEPPELIN.

BY KARL VON WEEKEND

(HYPHENATED NEUTRAL).

PART I.

Somewhere in Germany, April 1st, 1916.

I had just partaken of the frugal breakfast to which I had been invited General Headquarters and was in the act of helping my distinguished host, Feldmarschall von und zu Grosskopf-Esel, to remove some fragments of sauerkraut from his ears, when a superbly-mounted orderly dashed up and handed me a missive bearing the significant superscription, "General Staff." I must confess that to me the messenger's manner seemed sufficiently deferential. Not to my friend the Major-General, who, with a sudden and well-placed kick in the stomach, sent the unfortunate despatch-bearer hurtling down the steps. It was not for me to inquire what the trouble was, and I mention the incident as one more illustration of the iron discipline that has driven the gallant troops of the Fatherland to victory on all fronts.

Imagine my gratification on finding that the letter was an invitation to inspect on the following morning the latest Zeppelin sheds at —— and to be a passenger on board one of the new airships that was scheduled to pay a surprise visit to the fortress of London that same evening, weather permitting.

Punctually at seven on the following morning I found von und zu Grosskopf-Esel waiting for me in the huge twenty-cylinder roadster which the General Staff customarily places at the disposal of American newspaper correspondents. Within the hour we were at ——, where I was turned over to the good offices of Herr Ober-Leutnant von Dachswurst, of the Imperial Flying Corps, who immediately conducted me to the shed from which (when the weather is propitious) the aerial monsters depart upon their errands of doom.

I had expected to see two, or at most three, Zeppelins in the great shed. Imagine my astonishment on beholding no fewer than a hundred huge engines of destruction tugging impatiently at their moorings. I was speechless. But the Ober-Leutnant read my thoughts. "What would you say," he asked, smiling drily, "if I were to tell you that Germany to-day possesses no fewer than one hundred such fleets of airships as you see before you?" So overcome was I that I scarcely had the strength to ask him why, up to that time, attacks had been usually carried out with two or three ships only. He smiled still more at enigmatically. "You must not ask me that," he said, "or at least you must first ask the Grand Admiral why his five hundred submersible battle cruisers are still at anchor in Kiel Harbour, or the General Staff why five million of Germany's finest veteran troops are still doing the goose-step in the Potsdam Thiergarten, or Herr Helfferich why the rate of exchange has not been corrected by releasing some small portion of the ten thousand billion marks that lie in the Imperial treasury at Spandau! Be patient," he added. "Our perfidious enemies will bite the dust whenever it suits our glorious leaders to say the word."

I muttered something about the enormous German casualty lists. The Ober-Leutnant smiled more enigmatically than ever. "A ruse to deceive our enemies," he said. "Would it surprise you to know that up to date the total German losses on all fronts amount to seventeen killed and ninety-one wounded and missing, while our material losses have so far been confined to three field guns left over from the Franco-German War and five dozen cases of collapsible sausage rolls?"

It was incredible, yet I could not but accept the statement as true, and have in fact had ample opportunity since of verifying the assertions of the gallant officer.

"But come," he said; "it is time we were on board."

The Zeppelins that were actually selected to conduct the proposed operations were housed in another shed, and thither we repaired. We were greeted at the gangway by the famous Captain Sigismund von Münchhausen, a gruff but hearty old mariner, who immediately escorted me into his cabin and insisted on my enjoying a cigar and a glass of schnapps with him. Once again I was struck with that almost Oriental charm of manner which seems to lift the German Higher Command above the plane occupied by the rest of the Occidental world.

It was no doubt my impatience that caused me to interrupt the gallant Captain's delightful flow of racy anecdote to ask when we should start. My host smiled enigmatically. "By now," he said, "we should be somewhere over the Dogger Bank."

It was true. So perfectly had all things been appointed that while I had been consuming a single glass of schnapps the huge airship had completed half the journey.

We now emerged from the cabin. As we approached the rail a sailor stepped up to the Captain, saluted and asked permission to speak. As far as I could gather, the wretched man complained of seasickness and asked to be put ashore. There was no mistaking the Captain's answer. "Ja wohl!" he roared, and with a mighty kick sent the luckless seaman hurtling over the rail and into the abyss below. A momentary sense of pity seized me, but it quickly occurred to me that only by such drastic means could be kept alive the splendid spirit of chivalry that has made the German airman victorious throughout the firmament.

It was now quite dark, but far beneath us could be seen with the aid of a telescope little points of light. Perfidious England, the author of all Germany's troubles, lay helpless beneath us.

(To be continued.)

[269]



'You advertised as chauffeurette-maid.'

"Yes, Madam."

"What were your duties at your last place?"

"I drove and cleaned the cars single-handed."

"And as maid?"

"I took down my lady at night and assembled her in the morning, Madam."

TO CHARLOTTE BRONTË.

STRANGE that the most *farouche* of all the ladies Rightly renowned as drivers of the quill, Who hated all publicity like Hades,

And showed in self-advancement little skill, Who did not write for Smiths and Browns and Bradys,

But at the prompting of her own sweet will— Her most obsequious partisans should find In penmen of the parasitic kind.

In vain did Mrs. GASKELL, wise and gracious, Paint us your portrait, delicate yet true; Sensation-mongers, strident and voracious,

Must needs explore your inner life anew, Clutching with fingers ruthlessly tenacious

At the remotest semblance of a clue; Raking the dustbins for unprinted matter, And prodigal of cheap and tasteless chatter.

And now in days of endless storms and stresses Comes your Centenary, with odes and lays,

And lantern slides and lectures and addresses, And all the modern ritual of praise;

With columns in *The Sphere* of C. K. S.'s Comments upon your life and work and ways, Judicial summings-up of old disputes And photographs of PATRICK BRONTE's boots.

And men and maids will doubtless march with banners To prove their worship of your "massive brain";

And intellectual Chicago "canners"

Will send their relics from across the main; And critics will discuss your various manners, And HAROLD BEGBIE will pronounce you "sane"; In short, you'll be the bookman's prey and quarry At many a high-class literary "swarry."

Well, well, brave CHARLOTTE, though our admiration Prompts some of us your memory to revere In ways less vocal in their adulation, You will not hold our homage less sincere

If we refrain from pouring a libation In orthodox Centenary small-beer, But choose to greet in silent awe and wonder The stormy spirit of the child of Thunder.

Commercial Candour.

"Messrs. — & Co., Ltd., Court Dress-fakers, &c."

Provincial Paper.

"Our Youngest General.

"He was educated at Glasgow University and Gottingen University, and entered the army in 1716."—*Bangalore Daily Post.*

Our Indian contemporary is misinformed. Several of our Generals are younger than that.

[270]

AN UNRECORDED ENGAGEMENT.

The following interesting letter has been forwarded to us by the relatives of one of our wounded heroes. It gives a vivid idea of his impressions during a severe engagement, particulars of which have not so far appeared in the Press.

> "Red Cross Hospital, Somewhere in England.

"... And now I must tell you of a very hot time that our lot here had recently. The attack was due to open at 5.30 in the afternoon. We had been warned to expect it, and the appointed hour found us ready in our positions. We were five deep, strongly posted on deck chairs; moreover, the warning had given us opportunity to construct a defensive rampart of evergreens and pot-plants before the front line.

"The engagement opened fairly punctually with a furious pianoforte bombardment, accompanied by asphyxiating footlights. Owing to the closeness of the range and the weight of metal employed, our first rank gave way a little, but subsequently rallied smartly. The attack now became general, the enemy advancing first in detached units, subsequently in column or quartette formation. A stubborn resistance was put up, but we were nearly forced to recoil before a desperate charge by *The Men of Harlech*.

"Hardly had we contrived to withstand these, when, with blood-curdling cries, the Funny Men dashed forward and fell upon us. The engagement was at this point so fierce that it was impossible to obtain more than a confused impression of it. I saw several of my brave comrades doubled up. Puns and lachrymatory wheezes darkened the air. At last, after a specially violent offensive, in which he was supported by the full strength of his piano, the enemy retired, followed by salvoes from our ranks, and left us, at least temporarily, masters of the situation.

"A lull ensued, during which, however, in spite of the curtain behind which the enemy endeavoured to mask his preparations, we were convinced, from certain unmistakable signs, that a fresh and possibly more violent attack was shortly to develop. Nor was this view wrong; for, when the curtain lifted, we at once saw that our worst fears were justified. Confronting us were the 1st Amateur Thespians, the most dreaded battalion in the enemy's Volunteer forces, and one reputed to have decimated more British classics than any two professional regiments.

"The methods of this body have changed very little during the last half-century. They still employ for choice the old *Box-and-Cox* attack, which has proved so effective in the past, followed frequently by *A Case for Eviction* or else *Gentlemen* *Boarders.* Bold to the point of rashness, no difficulties are found to daunt them; and the stoutest hearts might well quail at being exposed to the fury of their onslaught. Indeed how any of us survived the half-hour that followed I hardly know. It was a nightmare of smashed china, dropped cups, shouts of 'Bouncer, Bouncer!' and general confusion.

"But time was on our side; and when, towards seven o'clock, the curtain fell again, we knew that, holding as we did almost our original positions, we were victorious. Our exact casualties I have not yet heard, but they are certain to have been heavy. The ground lately held by the enemy presented a spectacle of appalling confusion; and everything pointed to the struggle having been most determined. Restoratives were administered to our men, and we turned in, exhausted but happy."

PERSONALIA.

It has been noticed by close observers that among curious developments brought about by the War the personal advertisements have been growing increasingly intimate. Mars and Venus again are associated. So far, only the Classes have been conspicuous. Why not the Masses too? Something like this:—

WILL LADY wearing handsome garnet necklace and ostrich feathers in large hat in front row of gallery of Britannia Theatre, who threw orange at Gordon Highlander in pit, injuring his left eye, meet him Sunday evening, Marble Arch, 7 sharp?—Box F.3.

WILL GIRL seated second table on left at Lockhart's, 17th April, 6.30, eating cold meat-pie, communicate with Bedfordshire Corporal with arm in sling, two tables away?—Box 183.

LONELY MARRIED MAN invites correspondence while waiting for single men to do their duty.—Box 84.

Saw you marching past Charing Cross Station, three a-breast, whistling "Keep the Home Fires Burning," Saturday night at 10.15, and called out to you from top of omnibus. Please write.—Box 10.

"LOST, gold CHAIN and PENDANT, containing sailor and baby; 5/- reward."

Liverpool Echo.

Small enough, even for the baby.

ECONOMY IN THE PRESS.

I.—The Editorial Page.

Here upon our middle page, Where the correspondents rage, Grim and dour and dry, Here with counsel bold and sage War on lollipops we wage, Smiting hip and thigh.

"Pare potatoes very thin; All the virtue's in the skin; Save the peel for soups; Drop cigars; abandon gin; Leave the bristles on your chin; Tie your hair in loops. "Golf and ties and collars shun; Lunch upon a penny bun; Butter not your bread; Save your pennies—every one Helps to crush the brutal Hun." Thus and thus we've said.

II.—The Advertisement Pages.

Now the advertiser comes; Hush the sound of warning drums; Hear his siren song: "Leave your economic sums; Leave the task of saving crumbs; Join the shopping throng.

"Come to Blank's—the thing to do! Here are chiffons, ninons too, Quilts for Fido's cot; Silken robe and satin shoe, Figured fabrics, gold and blue, Bangles, pearls—what not?

"Bon-bons, perfumes, trifles gay— Still you'll find a fresh display Where the last one ends; New sensations every day! Motor round without delay! Come, and bring your friends!"

In Its Proper Element.

"No appointments have been made in the place of Lord Derby and Lord Montagu [who have resigned their seats on the Joint Air Committee], and the Committee is, for the present, *en l'air.*"—*The Times.*

"Amongst the sights which never fail to draw the attention of curious Londoners is that of girls perched high up on enormous vans manipulating the reins and guiding fresh nurses through the maze of city traffic."

"Star" (Ch. Ch. N. Z.)

There must be some mistake here. The nurses we see in London are always perfectly sober.

Mr. BLATCHFORD on the match-tax:-

"In this insidious manipulation of the thin end of the Tory wedge do we not perceive the cloven hoof of the serpent casting its shadow before?"—*Weekly Dispatch.*

No; all we see is Mr. BLATCHFORD laboriously trying to emulate Sir BOYLE ROCHE.

[271]



OUR SPOILT WARRIORS.

 $\emph{Tommy.}$ "I went to a place a bit further down the road for supper last night. I don't go there again."

Lady Muriel Beltravers-Montmorency. "Oh, what's the matter with IT?"

 $\emph{Tommy.}$ "What's the matter with it? Why, they have paid waitresses there."

NOT RUNNING TO SEED.

To Reginald Cressingham, Esq.

DEAR SIR (OR MADAM),—Looking over our records a few days ago, we noticed that you had not been so good a customer of ours for Seeds during the past twelve months as you used to be; and the more we looked at that record the more we wondered what we had done that caused you to practically stop dealing with us.

Finally we decided to drop you a line and ask you whether you will kindly tell us, personally, frankly, whether there is anything we have not done that we should have done.

Unfortunately accidents will happen at times, and if one has happened in this case we hope you will tell us about it so that we can try to put it right the day we get your letter. It does not make any difference what the trouble is, we will do our best to make it good.

> Your faithful and obedient Servants, GOODENOUGH & SONS.

To Messrs. Goodenough & Sons.

DEAR SIRS,—I regret to say there *is* a reason for discontinuing my seed order, and I am pleased to hear you will do your best to make the trouble good; but I am half afraid you will not be able to "put it right the day you get my letter."

The fact is there is a European War going on just now, and it has sadly upset our gardening plans. Instead of having eight men (counting a husband) about the place, I am now reduced to one gardener, and he will shortly be called up in a married group, unless the flat foot he is assiduously cultivating softens the heart of the Exemption Tribunal.

I am sorry I have no time to tell you more about this War, but I must now go and dig the vegetables.

Yours faithfully,

"Stabbing Affray due to a Girl's Charm.

In the village of Sharwida, Zagazig district, lives a girl who is a paragraph of beauty."

Egyptian Mail.

This barely does her justice. She seems to have been quite the penny novelette.

"In the Argonne we carried out a coup domain this morning."—*Evening Paper.*

It is a good General who never puts off till to-morrow what he can do this morning.

NURSERY RHYMES OF LONDON TOWN.

VI.—CHALK FARM.

Certain farmers farm in fruit, and some farm in grain, Others farm in dairy-stuff, and many farm in vain, But I know a place for a Sunday morning's walk Where the Farmer and his Family only farm in Chalk. The Farmer and his Family before you walk back Will bid you in to sit awhile and share their midday snack;

O they that live in Chalk Farm they live at their ease, For the Farmer and his Family can't tell Chalk from Cheese.

VII.—THE SPANIARDS.

Three Spaniards dwell on Hampstead Heath: One has a scowl and a knife in a sheath; One twangs a guitar in the bright moonlight; One chases a bull round a bush all night!

"In talking of flying, Boillot only returned to a pastime that he had been one of the first to practise."—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

Just like our Mr. Billing.

[272]

OUR BOOKING-OFFICE.

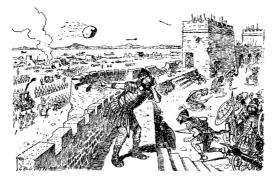
(By Mr. Punch's Staff of Learned Clerks.)

Miss Pandora (HEINEMANN) is proclaimed by its publishers to be a first novel. Probably, however, it will not also be a last, as the author, M. E. NORMAN, has a considerable gift for tale-telling. Perhaps I may be permitted to hope that he (or she) will use it next time to illuminate a rather more attractive set of characters. I don't think that the circle in which *Pandora* moved contains a single person whom I should wish to meet twice. There was *Pandora* herself, who was dark and Spanish-looking, with an origin wrapped in mild mystery. There was her friend, a futile lady-novelist; there were three quite disagreeable men, a spoilt child and an old lady suffering from senile dementia. Oh, and I nearly forgot the sniffy neighbour, who, having cut *Pandora* dead for half the book, was revealed in the second half as her mother. Add to this that *Pandora* had a past (and a present too, for that matter) with the husband of the lady novelist, and you will, I think, agree with me that they were a queer lot. Also I have seldom read a novel with such an unsatisfactory ending. It almost seemed as though M. E. NORMAN, having got the affair into a tangle, was too bored to unravel it. I am by no means sure, for example, that he (or she) had any clearer ideas about *Pandora's* paternity than I have. The depressing conclusion is that, while I readily admit that the writing of it shows originality and promise, *Miss Pandora* is hardly the novel I should have expected to be produced in a paper famine.

Before I began to unweave The Web of Fräulein (Hodder and Stoughton) a dreadful and, as it turned out, an unnecessary fear seized me that Miss Katharine Tynan had written a spy-novel of the present day. Imagine then my relief when I found that the story dates back some thirty or forty years, and that, although *Fräulein* was really as pestilential a woman as ever became governess to a respectable British family, espionage was not part of her game. With uncanny skill Miss Tynan relates the influence that this flat-footed German woman gained in the Allanson household; but I must protest, in justice to our race, that we have not many families so lacking in enterprise as to allow themselves to be enmeshed in such a web as this. In short I can dislike this German product very cordially but without for a moment understanding the source of the devastating power she had over others. You must not, however, imagine that the web casts a gloom over the whole book, for when Fräulein is not on the scene-and we do have some holidays from her-those Allansons whom she had not marked down could be attractively natural and gay; and the younger Allanson girl is as delightful a portrait as any in Miss TYNAN's generous gallery.

I think I never met a writer who splashed language about with a greater recklessness than Miss MARION HILL. I see that one of the reviews of that previous best seller of hers, The Lure of Crooning Water, speaks of its literary charm. Well, there are, of course, many varieties of charm, but "literary" is hardly the epithet that I should myself apply to the undoubted attractions of A Slack Wire (Long). This very bustling story of the marriage between a variety artist and a quiet, not to say somewhat prigsome, young engineer is told for the most part in the purest American, an engaging and vivid medium with which I am but imperfectly acquainted. Further, Miss HILL's command of words seems to be gloriously unhampered by tradition. "It was with a supercargo of relief even heavier than usual that he found it" is a sample that I select at random. No, I certainly do not think that "literary" would be the epithet. But I am far from saying that there is no charm in the tale, of a sort. Not specially original perhaps the situation of the Bohemian wife brought to an ultra-Philistine home; but Miss HILL manages to keep it going briskly enough. And, as I have hinted, you never know what she will say next, or how. The whole thing would make such an admirable film-play that I can hardly believe this idea to have been absent from the intention of its author. The final sensation-scene, in which Violet uses her old wire-walking agility to prevent a catastrophe (never ask me how!), would make a fortune on the screen. Poor Violet, I may tell you, had been born in England, and, on the death of her rightful guardians, was "farmed off to peasants, who boarded her because it would cancel their poor-tax." I feel somehow that if I could grasp this reference it would make much in *Violet* clear. But so far it eludes me.

If powers of absorption are still left to you for any battles save those of to-day, you will find a vivid account of Flodden in *The Crimson Field* (WARD, LOCK). I won't believe it is Mr. HALLIWELL SUTCLIFFE's fault that the fighting scenes of his story left me cold; the blame lies rather with the Hunnish times in which we live. While describing the beauty of the Yorkshire dales and the lives of their inhabitants, Mr. SUTCLIFFE held me in the hollow of his hand. But when he started to tell of the valiant deeds of the yeoman-hero, *Sylvester Demain*, who was knighted on the field of battle and won the maiden of high degree, I was released from that bondage. Indeed, I think Mr. SUTCLIFFE was no more anxious to leave the dales than I was, for, when the march to Flodden begins, his style becomes almost bewilderingly jumpy, so often does he look over his shoulder to see—and let us know—what is happening to those who were left behind. The fight, however, when it does come, is strenuous enough, and in the midst of it KING JAMES—German papers please copy—stands out as a pattern of chivalry.



HISTORICAL PARALLELS. At the Siege of Carthage. "Look out, boys! Here comes another Saucy Scipio!"

A Dickens Revival.

"WANTED-Fat Boy for yard: 10s. weekly."

Dublin "Daily Independent."

Eighteen tailors from Leeds have been arrested at Dublin as deserters from the Army. As nine tailors make a man this is a net gain of two recruits.

Transcriber's Note: A linked Table of Contents has been provided for the convenience of the reader.

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