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Oscar Wilde
Scrapbook

Vol. **11**

Frank Allaben Genealogical Company, 3 West Forty-Second Street, New York



John Zugg Lindmark, Esq.,

351 Clinton Street,

Brooklyn, N. Y.

"I Shall Remember."

Sir,—The lines which your correspondent "Italia" inquires about occur in a poem called "Erotion," by Swinburne, first published in "Poems and Ballads" in 1866. The lines are frequently quoted, and still more frequently misquoted, in "In Memoriam" notices; but a reference to the poem itself will show how very inappropriate they are for this purpose. Swinburne's own *apologia* for the poem (which is stated to have been written for a drawing by Simeon Solomon, the Pre-Raphaelite painter) will be found in "The Dark Blue," a magazine published at Oxford in July, 1871.

STUART MASON.

Abercorn Place, N.W.

Sir,—The lines of which "Italia" desires the correct version are to be found in "Erotion," in Swinburne's "Poems and Ballads," First Series. As they are invariably misquoted in obituary notices, and elsewhere, I append them, with the two preceding lines:

I shall be glad of thee, O fairest head,
Alive, alone, without thee, with thee, dead;
I shall remember while the light lives yet,
And in the night-time I shall not forget.

THEODORE WRATISLAW.

35, *Burton Court, Sloane Square, S.W.3.*

[E. G. S. Aubyn (Kingsbridge, S. Devon), "A Lover of Quotations" (London, W.), S. W. Sillem (Albany Mansions, S.W.11), J. A. Westrup (Balliol College, Oxford), J. B. S. Lewis (Woodford Bridge, Essex), Jenny Wren (Queen's Gate Gardens), and H. Howard (Littlehampton) also reply to this query.]

'SALOME' AT THE CHÂTELET IN PARIS.

14 JUN 1911

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, June 13.

The Répétition Générale of Oscar Wilde's drama, "Salome," with incidental music by Glazounow, took place at the Châtelet Theatre to-night. M. de Max, who took the part of Herod, and Madame Ida Rubinstein, who played Salome, appeared to have totally different conceptions of the piece, and the audience was not a little mystified by the extraordinary contrast between their manners. M. de Max evidently regarded Salome as the parody of a melodrama; his tone and gestures were clothed in that exaggerated sublimity which so often touches the ridiculous, and which removes the action from the realm of reality even more effectively than the tragic mask and buskin of the ancient Athenians. This note was struck at the opening of the piece by the soldiers, who pronounced in awe-struck whispers such unimportant remarks as "Je ne sais pas," and dwelt on them tragically, as though they were the answer to the riddle of the Sphinx.

M. de Max's melodrama produced its full comic effect when it came into contrast with the homely commonsense of Herodias, a part that was well played by Madame de Fehl. Madame de Fehl treated the piece as a parody of the sublime, and plunged the audience with the greatest gusto into the bathos of a conjugal squabble after M. de Max had been bearing them aloft towards those non-existent regions where the word "foreboding" becomes an obsession, and where the actors shiver with cold or are consumed with fever for supernatural reasons quite unconnected with temperature.

Unfortunately, Madame Rubinstein took the part of Salome absolutely seriously, and endeavoured to play it realistically: she endeavoured to be tragic while everyone round her was parodying melodrama. Her diction, though it has much improved, and though her Russian accent is less startling than it was, left much to be desired, but her silences were eloquent with an eloquence that belongs to the plastic arts rather than to the stage. While Herod was alternately ranting bravely and telling home-truths to his wife Salome sat motionless, her face turned to the wall in an attitude that was marvelously expressive of the despair of despised passion. In the dance of the Seven Veils Madame Rubinstein was graceful and languorous, with something of the treacherous delicacy of the panther; in her hands the veils became living serpents and coiled themselves about her in bewildering sinuous folds. But the dance would have been more effective had it been less complicated, and it did not seem to have been quite sufficiently rehearsed.

The scenery and costumes, designed by M. Léon Bakst, were extremely effective, and the colour scheme was daring and successful. Why, however, the moon of blood was exaggerated to at least tenfold its size is a mystery, since it ceased to resemble a celestial body at all, and profane spectators compared it to a Dutch cheese. It was no doubt difficult to devise a moon that could be compared to "une femme morte," "une princesse qui a des pieds comme des petites colombes blanches," and "une femme ivre et hystérique," but M. Bakst might perhaps have found inspiration in Herodias' remark, "La lune ressemble à la lune. C'est tout." In any case it was surely unnecessary for it to undergo first a partial and then an annular eclipse at moments when the action had no need for these surprises. M. Glazounow's music was not particularly pleasing, but it was sufficiently weird to produce the required effect.

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The Observer.

125, Strand, S.W.

Issue dated.....10.....1911

ART & ARTISTS.

CHELSEA TOWN HALL DECORATION.

All minor exhibitions, even those of Mr. Augustus John's recent paintings and drawings at the Chenil Gallery in Chelsea, and of the "Camden Town Group" at the Carfax Gallery, must stand back this week, when the highly important competition for the decoration of Chelsea Town Hall claims first attention. The scheme, which has so far resulted in the exhibition of designs by Chelsea artists, that will be on view at the Town Hall during the course of next week, was originated by Mr. Christopher Head, late Mayor of the Borough, whose generous donation, together with those made by Earl Cadogan, Mr. E. J. Horniman and Mr. St. John Hornby, provided for the execution of the first four panels. In a leaflet issued in connection with this exhibition it is stated that, "Mr. Head having invited the collaboration of the Chelsea Arts Club in realising his project, it was decided that a comprehensive scheme for the decoration of the hall should be entrusted to three judges selected by the club, and that a competition under the auspices of the club should be thrown open to all Chelsea artists, it being felt that the heterogeneous result achieved in most of the decorations in London was due partly to the absence of a controlling scheme, and that the choice of the artists and subjects should not be left to individual patronage only." The judges chosen were Messrs. J. S. Sargent, P. Wilson Steer and E. A. Rickards—artists all who may be depended upon for the soundness of their judgment, although it is subject to considerable doubt whether the available material will yield a homogeneous scheme of decoration.

It appears that each panel is to be allotted to a different artist, the subjects and scale of the figures being embodied in the conditions for the competition. The panels are to be "representative of the men and women celebrated in Chelsea History," the four subjects being:—(1) The great Artists; (2) the famous Writers; (3) leaders of Religion, the genius of Science and the art of Music; and (4) Kings and Queens, Soldiers and Statesmen. It so happens that practically all the designs which are worthy of serious consideration and which could be combined into a scheme of some unity belong to groups 1 and 2. Among them will be found the works of artists who understand the essentials of mural decoration, whilst the designs submitted for the other two panels suggest, almost without exception, the mumery of fancy dress ball processions or are conceived in a manner that renders them unsuitable for the purpose. Whilst admitting the high merit of the designs submitted by some half-dozen competitors, one cannot but confess to a sense of disappointment at the comparative failure of Chelsea to live up to its reputation as the chief centre of English art. Too many of the designs are downright bad, not only as decorations, but even if judged from the standard of the ordinary historical or "imaginative" Academy picture; and nearly all—even the best—are timid or commonplace in conception. Where there is daring, as in one or two designs that lean towards post-impressionism, the daring is not supported by competent craftsmanship.

The names of the competitors and the decision of the judges have been withheld so far, and will not be announced until next week; but in the majority of cases it requires no great skill to discover the paternity—in many cases it would be more correct to say the maternity—of the designs. Indeed, the women artists come out with flying colours, and though they are not responsible for the three designs that stand out high above the rest—No. 66, which surely must have met with the unanimous approval of the judges, and Nos. 15 and 16 (both by the same artist)—at least four of their number reveal a sounder knowledge of the true nature of wall decoration than most of their male rivals. One of these four has already achieved considerable reputation for her splendid frescoes executed in a provincial school building. Her design (No. 46) is steeped in the best Florentine and Romagna tradition, without being at all slavishly imitative. Unfortunately, the linear rhythm of this design is destroyed by the obtrusiveness of a heavy mandorla breaking into the architectural lines. Nos. 56 and 57 are by another lady who knows what wall decoration should be, but whose knowledge is not accompanied by imagination or by a sense of design. Yet another competitor, who is responsible for No. 24, has learnt and assimilated the lesson of Veronese and other Venetians; but the colour is too heavy, the design too massive for a wall decoration.

At the extreme end of the room, on the left, are two other striking designs, which I suspect to be the work of women painters; but I have no record of their numbers, though one can easily be recognised by the strange puce colour of the dress of a figure in the centre of the composition, the other by a certain ruggedness of handling and sunny brilliance of colour. No. 37, in which Fräulein von Derp, the impersonator of Sumurun, is seen dancing in the scantiest attire before Carlyle, Whistler, Wilde and other Chelsea celebrities, is one of the best "pictures" in this exhibition, but the full scale cartoon for one of the figures and this accomplished artist's known academic style justify a certain doubt as to his ability to adapt himself to the exigencies of mural decoration. Much the same may be said of No. 50, with its humorous treatment of Oscar Wilde smelling a long-stalked arum lily. This, surely, is not the work of a Chelsea, but rather of a Kensington, artist? No. 31 has the distinction of being most puzzling and unintelligible design. On the left on the ground are some naked, writhing Michelangelesque athletes. Close to them, but wholly disconnected and unaware of their presence, Oscar Wilde and others, turning their backs to the athletes, are assisting at what looks uncommonly like a ceremony of betrothal or wedding between Mrs. Browning and Carlyle, whilst through the air an allegorical figure swoops down upon the athletes. On the whole, there is in these designs a regrettable tendency towards anecdotal illustration and a lack of that monumental architectonic weight and balance which distinguishes not only the mural paintings of the great masters, but also of such moderns as Puvis de Chavannes.

of the eminent men of his day, and they are extremely pleasant reading, as they are sufficiently intimate to make you feel the unceremonial presence of the writer, and yet not so intimate that you feel, as it is impossible not to feel in reading some letters, that you are encroaching upon private and sacred ground. They strike the happy medium; in the same way, the gentleman in Miss Austen's novel liked his gruel thin, but not too thin. In 1843, Leigh Hunt was writing to him about a volume of Allingham's poetry; they met in 1847, when Hunt was sixty-three, and Allingham twenty-three, and Hunt, in 1855, is signing himself—rather characteristically—"Affettuosissimamente, L. H." About the same time that Allingham met Leigh Hunt he wrote to Emerson during Emerson's second visit to England, and there are two interesting letters from the great man, in one of which he mentions "Mr. Thoreau, a stoic among the muses, whose prose poem of Concord and Merrimack Rivers I fear has never reached Ireland,"—for Allingham was still a Customs officer in Donegal at that time. And in 1856 A. H. Clough writes to him: "I had a line from Emerson the other day introducing a friend—a Mr. Henry James—who is staying here and whom I rather like. I scarcely hope to hear from him ever, except upon this sort of provocation." "A Mr. Henry James, whom I rather like," sounds quaintly to ears on whom that name has now a very different effect. Clough apparently had no suspicion then that Henry James would become the great man he now is.

There are letters from Thackeray and George Eliot and Dickens, for Allingham left Ireland, and in spite of Carlyle's dissuasion took up the literary life. At first he was sub-editor of "Fraser's Magazine," and eventually he was made its editor. One of the most interesting letters is from Jane Carlyle, also written in 1856, in which, in her witty, incisive way, she gives a delightful picture of John Ruskin. "'Claret and buttermilk' till one don't know which is which! But what could be expected from a man who goes to sleep with, every night, a different Turner's picture on a chair opposite his bed that 'he may have something beautiful to look at on first opening his eyes of a morning' (so his mother told me). . . . He is amiable and gay and full of hope and faith in—one doesn't know exactly what—but, of course, he does." She goes on to describe their visits to Denmark Hill, and remarks with what, in view of after events, gains poignant irony:—"I returned each time more satisfied that Mrs. Ruskin must have been hard to please. One feels, always, one could manage other women's husbands so much better than they do—and so much better than one manages one's own husband!"

There are letters, too, from Burne-Jones, with delightful sketch-signatures, facsimiles of which are reproduced; in one he writes: "My Dear,—Come and stay with us. I want to see you and jaw about things—the garden is full pleasant. Gabriel has a wombat—he has written about it to this effect,—

Oh! How the family affections combat

Within my breast! Each hour throws a bomb at

My burning soul—neither from owl or from bat

Can peace be gained, until I clasp my wombat.

And I am your affectionate Ned."

The book is crammed with good things, as how should a book not be which contains, beside those already mentioned, letters from such people as the Brownings, D. G. Rossetti, Sir Francis Galton, William Barnes, Richard Jeffries, William Morris, Landor and many others?

GHOST STORIES.

MORE GHOST STORIES OF AN ANTIQUARY. By

Montague Rhodes James, Litt.D. (Arnold.) 6s.

SCOTTISH GHOST STORIES. By Elliott O'Donnell.

(Kegan Paul.) 3s. 6d. net.

Dr. James hopes in his Preface that the book will "serve to amuse some readers at the Christmastime that is coming." "Amuse" is hardly the word. He must have a good nerve and a strong sense of humour who, reading these tales at a midnight of the dying year, can conjure up any but the uneasiest of cachinnations, or can help looking hastily over his shoulder lest some grisly, black thing should leap on him at the noise out of the shadows. Perhaps there is nothing quite so uncanny this time as the ghost of the previous volume which made itself a form and embodiment out of the bedclothes; but the "School Story" reaches a high level for its reticence and simplicity: nothing but two lines of a boy's Latin exercise, a scared master, and, thirty years later, two skeletons found clasped together at the bottom of a well. By the way, is Dr. James right in his catalogue of the "stock" school ghost stories?—

"First there was the house with a room in which a series of people insisted on passing a night; and each of them in the morning was found kneeling in a corner, and had just time to say 'I've seen it,' and died. . . . Then there was the man who heard a noise in the passage at night, opened his door, and saw someone crawling towards him on all fours with his eye hanging out on his cheek. Then there was besides—let me think. Yes! the room where a man was found dead in bed with a horseshoe mark on his forehead, and the floor under the bed was covered with marks of horseshoes also: I don't know why. Also there was the lady who, on locking her bedroom door in a strange house, heard a thin voice among the bed curtains say, 'Now we're shut in for the night.'"

Of Dr. James's stories the most gruesome (though not the best) is that entitled "Casting the Kunes," the tale of a man bewitched who reads in the opposite window-corner of a tramcar strange advertisements which are not there, who is handed by shadowy person handbills which other shadowy persons snatch from him just as he reads the word of fear, who reaches under the pillow for his watch at night and feels instead a hairy mouth with a long tongue. The pleasantest and most effective of the "stock" school ghost stories is "The Tractate Middoth" the

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3 WEST FORTY-SECOND STREET
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29 April, 1909.

John Zugg Lindmark, Esq.,
351 Clinton Street,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

We know of no published genealogy on the ancestry of Oscar Wilde, but should be very glad to make for you a research on the Wilde family, if you desire to have us do so. We cannot be sure, without more in detail from you, just what you desire to have done in this regard, but should be very glad to reply to any queries and to place our facilities at your disposal.

Speaking in a general way, the average cost of a research on an English family (conducted here and not involving the expense of employing a special agent abroad), is about twenty-five dollars.

Very truly yours,

Frank Allaben Genealogical Company,

By *M. T. R. Washburn*

(Enclosure)

PRICE SIXPENCE:

READY JUNE 1st 1889

The New Review

EDITED BY ARCHIBALD GROVE.

THERE can be no doubt that the keen anxiety to become acquainted with the ideas of the foremost men of the day on the many vital questions now before the world is developing among a very much wider class than is reached by the present six-shilling and half-crown Reviews. The object of the NEW REVIEW is to place within the reach of all a critical periodical of the first order which, as the subjoined list shows, will yield to none in the eminence of its contributors.

Politics, Science, and Art will be treated, in signed articles by writers of acknowledged repute, and literature both critical and creative, sober and fanciful, will be associated with names that carry their own commendation.

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1889

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| H. W. L. Lawson, M.P. | |
| Lady Dorothy Nevill. | |
| The Hon. R. Brett. | |
| Sir Roland Blennerhasset, Bart. | |
| L. V. Harcourt. | |
| Miss Margot Tennant. | |

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 The Duc de Broglie (de l'Académie Française).
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SIXPENCE MONTHLY.

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"To every man upon this earth death cometh soon or late," as Macaulay sings, and it is no less impossible to escape spirit-rapping and all the fascinating *menu* of the Psychical Society. The epidemic, which is contagious to the last degree, seizes its victims when they are off guard, under pretence of amusing an idle hour, and ends by robbing them of sleep and health; some it drives into lunatic asylums and some into newspaper correspondence. That thought-reading is not necessarily delusion or collusion is now generally recognised; a *protégée* of Mr. F. W. Myers convinced me of the possibility of simple feats, though not of her explanation of them. She credited them to spirits, and wicked spirits to boot. In vain I pointed out that spirits who occupied themselves so docilely about matters so trivial must be harmless creatures with no more guile than the village idiot: she would concede no grain of goodness in their composition.

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My conversion to a deeper interest in the obscurer psychic phenomena befell through encountering a theatrical touring company in a dull provincial town. The barber told me about it—a dapper young Englishman of twenty-five, with an unimpeachable necktie.

BARBER. "They're playing *Macbeth* to-night, sir."

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B. "Yes, sir; I'm told it's pretty thick."

A. "What's pretty thick?"

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A. "What do you mean by 'thick'?"

B. "Full of gore, sir. I don't like those sort o' pieces. I like opera—*Utopia* and that sort o' thing. You can see plenty o' thick things in real life. I don't want to go to the theatre to get the creeps and horrors. But I've seen *Othello* and *Virginus*."

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The Planchette, as everybody knows, and as I didn't know myself till I saw it, is a wooden heart that runs on two hind wheels, and has a pencil stuck through the centre of its apex. The Medium gracefully places her hand upon the heart, which after an interval of Quaker-like meditation begins to write, as abruptly as a Quaker is moved by the Spirit, and as abruptly finishes.

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I am, yours faithfully,

MAX JUDGE.

3, Loudoun-road, N.W.8.
January 6, 1925.

OBSERVER, SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 1925.

**THE DIGRESSIONS OF V. By ELIHU VEDDER. Constable.
21s. net.**

MR. ELIHU VEDDER is a citizen of no mean American city—New York—apparently of Dutch descent. In this bulky volume of over five hundred pages, in which the author describes the legends of his infancy and the more conventional adventures of his maturer years, we calculate that there are some half a dozen portraits of himself taken at various stages of his career without reckoning a photograph of "the artist's hands". There are also numerous reproductions of Mr. Vedder's pictures, some in colour.

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Rome, gives a very good survey of the kind of work done by British artists at or near Rome during the eighteenth and early part of the nineteenth century. There are some few living still who can remember the Rome of old days. There are some, perhaps many, who on looking over these drawings will regret the past, and think sadly of the changes wrought by the demands of modern progress. In any circumstances we recommend this portfolio most cordially as a valuable possession for the libraries of our readers.

L. C.

MEDIAEVAL SICILY. By CECILIA WAERN. Duckworth.
12s. 6d. net.

MISS WAERN has written a fascinating history of Mediaeval Sicily. Particularly good is the account of the Arab Conquest, and the effect of it upon the subsequent life of the people. She shows how admirable, on the whole, the Mohammedan government was, and what a high level of civilization was reached at a time when the rest of Europe was comparatively rude. The Norman invaders seem to have altered very little and to have wisely maintained the system of government carefully elaborated by their Arab predecessors. Not the least interesting is the chapter upon the survivals in modern Sicily of Mediaeval and even of Mohammedan times. The carving and decoration of the Carretti at Palermo are among the few direct survivals of Mediaeval craftsmanship and traditions still existing and they still retain the vitality and gaiety which has elsewhere departed from our manufactures. One hopes that the

his most interesting chapters to a little thatched cottage on the Yorkshire moors, in which was found at the beginning of the last century in a small loft under the thatch "an oratory, with the altar prepared for Mass", just as it had been left by a priest who had been informed against and arrested nearly a hundred and fifty years before. The later portions of the book deal more intimately with "relics and memorials of the English Martyrs", many of them enshrined in rich reliquaries; an appendix contains transcripts and translations of ancient documents; and a carefully compiled index is useful to the student in referring to a volume of over four hundred pages. Interesting as are the numerous photographs which the author has himself taken to illustrate his book, a word of special praise must be given to Mr. Joseph Pike, many of whose line-drawings are more successful in reviving the scenes depicted than any mechanical process can achieve. Two small misprints in a footnote on page 36 might be set right in a future edition.

C. S. M.

CATALOGUE OF EARLY GERMAN AND FLEMISH
WOODCUTS preserved in the Department of Prints and
Drawings in the British Museum. Vol. II. By CAMPBELL
DODGSON, M.A.

WE have frequently had occasion to call attention to the excellent work done in the Print-room at the British Museum under Sir Sidney Colvin, and

from the Paraguayan Government they had obtained a sufficient endowment of land and cattle, and in September 1893 two hundred and sixty pioneers arrived to found the colony, which was to be absolutely self-contained, on a Socialistic-communistic-co-operative basis. It lasted just three months. The Individualistic spirit proved too strong for the Socialistic. Many of the original pioneers broke away and crossed into Bolivia or tramped to Buenos Ayres, and those who were destitute had their passages back to Sydney paid by the Agent-general in London. So ended one of the latest Socialistic schemes, which seemed to start at the outset under most favourable conditions.

"It is in the interests of the poor that we fight against Socialism. Our reason for believing that Socialism means a hell on earth for the poor is, at any rate, one which can be stated in a dozen words, and one which can be understood by plain men and women; and that is a good deal more than can be said for the Fabian Essays. Our reason is this. What is wanted to abolish poverty and material misery is more good houses, more food, more clothes, more tea, more tobacco, more knowledge, more hope, more faith—more, in a word, of all the things man desires. Whatever system, then, produces most of these things is the best, for it will give more to go round. We believe not only that the system of free trade and free enterprise, of individualism and independence, will produce far more than the Socialistic system, but that the system of municipalisation would reduce production to starvation point, and leave little or nothing to go round. We may be right, or we may be wrong; but at any rate we Free Traders hold this view. But this being so, we should fail in our duty to our fellows if we did not oppose the Socialists at every point."—*Spectator*, July 29th, 1893. Although we may not believe in Socialism as a cure, we may still feel that the present state of things must be amended: there are not many important industries in the country at the present time which are in a paying or satisfactory condition, and it is most lamentably true that to large numbers of men the chances of fixed employment are becoming more difficult to obtain; but under these circumstances no scheme of Socialism ever yet invented would prove a remedy for the poverty which exists, and, believing as I do that these troubles are to a great extent wholly uncalled for by the economic conditions, and are mainly due to financial reasons, it is impossible not to feel terrified at the imminent danger which now exists of remedies being applied which, in their inevitable consequences, will intensely aggravate the disease.

The present agitation against the House of Lords is immediately caused by their rejection of a Bill which received no very enthusiastic support from a small majority of a House of Commons in which the junior partner has twenty votes too many while the predominant partner has twenty votes too few. The issues at the next general election are so complicated already, ranging as they do from allotments to Home Rule, and from Disestablishment to Local Veto, and a voter will be voting for Home Rule for Ireland and Irish Rule for England, for Disestablishment, and for Local Option, when he is really voting for allotments and pigsties, that it is much to be regretted that a "tremendous" Revolution is to be added to them. But if there is any truth in the contentions which I have raised above as to the direction in which we are moving at an ever-increasing pace, it is to be hoped that, until it is definitely stated what constitutional checks are to be placed on the power, or rather the tyranny, of a "log-rolling" majority in the House of Commons, a large majority of the people in this country will think once, twice, and thrice before they follow Lord Rosebery into his "tremendous" but vague Revolution.

W. H. GRENFELL.



FRENCH CEMETERIES—AT THE GRAVE OF MAUPASSANT—ANDREW LANG AND THE SPOOKS—"THE ANTIQUARY" ON DREAMS—A PUZZLE OF COLLABORATION—VAGARIES OF A PUBLISHER—OSCAR WILDE AS A DRAMATIST—MR. SAINTSBURY AS A CRITIC.

THE dead have their day in France, but it was not *le jour des morts* when I bethought myself of visiting the grave of Maupassant. I do not care for these crowded "at homes,"—I prefer to pay my respects in solitude. You will not think this remark flippant if you are familiar with French cemeteries, if you know those great family sepulchres, fitted up as little chapels, through whose doors, crowned with the black cross, you may see the great wax tapers in the candelabra at the altar, the stained-glass windows with the figure of the Madonna and Child, the eikons of Christ, the praying-stools, the vases, the busts or photographs of the deceased—worthy people who not only thought life worth living but death worth dying, and did the one and the other respectfully and becomingly. Maupassant lies in one art-quarter of Paris, just as Heinrich Heine lies in the other. The cemetery is off the Boulevard Raspail, within bow-shot of the *ateliers* of Whistler and Bouguereau, overlooked by an imposing statue of M. Raspail which sets forth that

scientific citizen's many virtues and services. He proclaimed Universal Franchise in 1830, he proclaimed the Republic in 1848, and his pedestal now proclaims with equal cocksureness that science is the only religion of the future. "Give me a cell and I will build you up all organised life," cries the statue, and its stony hand seems to wave theatrically as in emulation of the bas-reliefs on its base representing Raspail animating his *camarades* to victory. But alas! *tout passe, tout casse, tout lasse*, and not all the residents of the Boulevard are aware of the origin of their address. Chateaubriand survives as a steak and Raspail as a Boulevard.

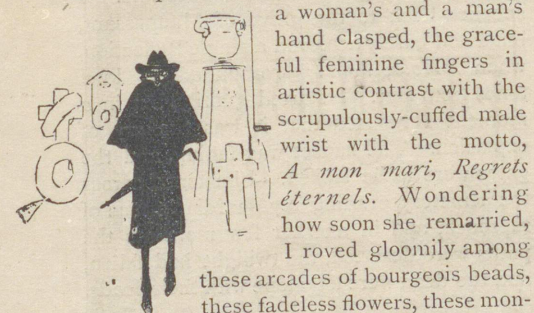
The cemetery Montparnasse is densely populated, and I wandered long without finding the author of *Boule de Suif*. It was a wilderness of artificial flowers, great wreaths made of beads. Beads, beads, beads, black or lavender, and even white and yellow, blooming garishly in all sizes on every grave and stone, in strange theatrical sentimentality, complex products of civilisation, making death as unnatural as the feverish life of the

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WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

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Boulevards. Sometimes the beaded flowers were protected by glass shades, sometimes they were supplemented by leaden or marble images. Over one grave I found a little porcelain angel, his wings blue as with the cold; and under him last year's angel in melancholy supersession. Elsewhere, most terrible sight of all in this ghastly place, was a white porcelain urn on which were painted



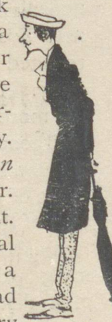
a woman's and a man's hand clasped, the graceful feminine fingers in artistic contrast with the scrupulously-cuffed male wrist with the motto, *A mon mari, Regrets éternels*. Wondering how soon she remarried, I roved gloomily among these arcades of bourgeois beads, these fadeless flowers, these monstrous ever-blacks, relieved to find a touch of humour, as in a colossal wreath ostentatiously inscribed *A ma belle-mère*. I peeped into the great family tombs, irresistibly reminded of "Lo, the poor Indian," and the tribes who provision their dead; I wondered if the old ghosts ever turn in their graves (as there is plenty of room for them to do) when some daughter of their house makes an imprudent alliance. Do they hold family councils in the chapel, I thought, and lament the growing scepticism of their grandchildren, sighing to see themselves so changed from the photographs in the family album that confronts their hollow orbits? Do they take themselves as seriously in death as they did in life? But they were all scornfully incommunicative. And at last, despairing of discovering the goal of my journeyings, I inquired of a guardian in a peaked blue cap and a blue cloak, who informed me that it was in the twenty-sixth section of the other cemetery. Wonderfully precise, red-tape, bureaucratic, symmetrical people, the French, for all their superficial curvetings! I repaired to the other portion of the cemetery, to lose myself again among boundless black beads and endless chapels and funereal urns; and at last I besought another blue-cloaked guardian to show me the grave of Maupassant. "*Par ici*," he said nonchalantly; and eschewing the gravel walks he took a short cut through a lane of dead maidens—

"What's become of all the gold
Used to hang and brush their bosoms?"—

and, descending an avenue of estimable *pères de famille*, turned the corner of an elegant sepulchre, to which only the most fashionable ghosts could possibly have the entry. Dear, dear, what heart-burnings there must be among the more snobbish shadows of Mont-



parnasse! My guide made me pause and admire, and he likewise insisted on the tribute of my tear before an obelisk to slaughtered soldiers and a handsome memorial to burnt firemen. But perceiving my impatience to arrive at the grave of Maupassant, "*Mais, monsieur*," he protested, "*il n'y a rien d'extraordinaire*." "*Vraiment!*" said I, "*c'est là l'extraordinaire*." "*Rien du tout d'extraordinaire*," he repeated doggedly. "*Sauf le cadavre*," I retorted. He shook his head. "*Très pauvre la tombe*," he muttered: "*pas du tout riche*." Another guardian, wall-eyed, here joined him, and catching the subject of conversation, "*Très pauvre*," he corroborated compassionately. But he went with us, accompanied by a very lean young Frenchman with a soft felt hat, an over-long frock-coat, tweed trousers, and a black alpaca umbrella. He looked like a French translation of some character of Dickens. At last we arrived at the grave. "*C'est là!*" And both guardians shook their heads dolefully. "*Très pauvre!*" sighed one. "*Rien du tout—rien*," sighed the other. And, thank Heaven, they were right. Nothing but green turf and real flowers, and a name and a date on a black cross—the first real grave I had come across. No beads, no tawdry images, nothing but the dignity of death, nothing but "Guy de Maupassant, 6 Juillet, '93," on the cross, and "Guy de Maupassant, 1850-93," at the foot. The shrubs were few, and the flowers were common and frost-bitten; but in that desert of bourgeois beads, the simple green grave stood out in touching sublimity. The great novelist seemed to be as close to the reality of death as he had been to that of life. Those other dead seemed so falsely romanticist. It was a beautiful sunny winter afternoon. There was a feel of spring in the air, of the Resurrection and the Life. Beyond the bare slim branches of the trees of the





other cemetery, gracefully etched against the sky, the sun was setting in a beautiful bank of dusky clouds. Life was so alive that day, and death so dead. Outside the tomb the poem of light and air, and inside the tomb—what? I thought of the last words of *Une Vie*, that fine novel, which even Tolstoi considers great, of the old servant's summing up: "*La vie, voyez-vous, ça n'est jamais si bon ni si mauvais qu'on croit.*" "Perhaps," thought I, "'tis the same with death." "The *Société des Gens de Lettres* had to buy the ground for him," interrupted the wall-eyed guardian compassionately. The Dickensy Frenchman heaved a great sigh. "*Vous croyez!*" he said. "Yes," asseverated the other guardian—"he has it in perpetuity." Ignorant of the customs of death, I wondered if one's corpse were liable to eviction, and whether the statute of limitations ought not to apply. "*Je pensais qu'il avait une certaine position,*" observed the Frenchman dubiously. "*Non,*" replied the wall-eyed guardian, shaking his head, "*Non, il est mort sans le sou.*" At the mention of coin I distributed *pourboire*. The first guardian went away. I lingered at the tomb, alive now to its more sordid side. Only one row of bourgeois graves, some occupied, some still *à louer*, separated it from an unlovely waste piece of ground, bounded by the gaunt brick wall of the fast-filling cemetery. As I began to muse thereon, I heard a cry, and perceived my guardian peeping from round the corner of a distant tomb, and beckoning me with imperative forefinger. I wanted to stay; I wanted to have "*Meditations at the grave of Maupassant,*" to ponder on the irony of death, to think of the brilliant novelist, the lover of life, cut off in his pride, to lie amid perspectives of black and lavender beads. But my guardian would not let me. "*Il n'y a rien à voir,*" he cried almost angrily, and haled me off to see the real treasures of his cemetery. In vain I persisted that I must not give him trouble, that I could discover the beauties for myself. "*O monsieur!*" he said reproachfully. Fearing he might return my *pourboire*, I followed him helplessly to inspect the pompous bead-covered tombs of the well-to-do, shocking him by

stopping to muse at the rude mound of an anonymous corpse, remembered only by a little bunch of *immortelles*. One of the fashionable sepulchres stood open, and was being dusted by a man and a woman (on a dust from dust principle, apparently). Most of the dust seemed to be little beads. My keeper exchanged a word with the cleaners, and I profited by the occasion to escape. I sneaked back to the grave of Maupassant, but I had barely achieved a single Reflection, when "*Holà, holà!*" resounded in loud tones from afar. I started guiltily, but in a moment I realised that it was the cry of expulsion. The sunset was fading, and the gates were to be locked. I hastened across the cemetery, evading my guardian's face of reproach, and in another few moments the paths were deserted, the twilight had fallen, and the dead were left alone with their beads.

LET us hope that they rest in peace, that they are not liable to be called up like doctors at all hours of the night to turn tables or rap out replies. A complimentary correspondent beseeches me not to give up to the occult what was meant for literature—"like another brilliant *causeur*." But the occult is a subject for literary brilliance, like any other, as that other *causeur*, at least, demonstrates. I cannot pretend, however, to be classed with Mr. Andrew Lang as an investigator of the occult. To Mr. Lang these things are a passion, to me a passing pastime. Spirit-rapping came across my path by accident, and, having in my youth been thoroughly grounded in psychology and the logics, I solved the mystery (to my own satisfaction). When spooks come across my path I shall solve them (to my own satisfaction). I do not expect to satisfy everybody else. Mr. Lang in private letters, and in his amiable criticisms in *Longman's Magazine* and the *Illustrated London News*, has challenged me to a friendly *séance*. To my regret this has not yet come off; for when Mr. Lang came from Scotland to London, I had to go a-lecturing in Scotland. But Mr. Lang has mis-read me. I have no special spiritualistic powers or rather weaknesses, for a "medium" is, on my theory, only



but each and all blank of the consciousness of a crisis. The talk was of everything save art and literature. The critics did not even sharpen their pencils. They looked bored to a man. In vain my eye roved the arm-chairs in search of a fighting figure. I could not even see the musical iconoclast who had carried his pepper-and-salt suit into the holy of holies of the Italian opera. My heart sank within me. When the orchestra ceased I gave one last despairing glance all round the theatre in search of my friend the Apostle. *He was not there!*



THE play was *The Charlatan*,—the work of that other apostle, whose outspoken Epistles to the English chronically relieve the dull decorum of London journalism; the man of whom Tennyson came near writing—

Buchanan to right of him,
Buchanan to left of him,
Buchanan in front of him,
Volleyed and thundered.

But that night it was the audience that volleyed and thundered, in unanimous applause. Hisses or party-cries were not. During the intense episodes, when the house was wrapt in silence, and you could have heard a programme drop, no opposition partisan as much as laughed. The author was called at curtain-fall, and retired uninjured. Next morning the critics were scrupulously suave, with no sign of the battle they had been through. Most wonderful to relate, Mr. William Archer, the risen hope of the stern and unbending Radicals, launched into unwonted praise, and gave an airing to some of the eulogistic adjectives that had been mouldering in his dictionary; nor did he even appear to be aware that he had gone over to the enemy!

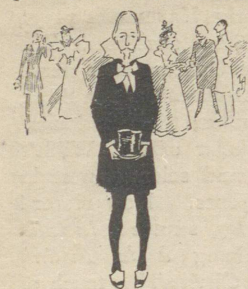
For one thing, Bard Buchanan had given us neither old school nor new, but a blend of both—nay, a blend of all forms of both—a structure at once modern and mediæval, with a Norwegian wing. It combined the common-sense of England with the glamour

of the East, the physiology of the hypnotist with the psychology of Ibsen. More! It was an epitome of all the Haymarket plays, a *résumé* of all Mr. Tree's successes. The heroine was a mixture of Ophelia and hysteria, the hero was a combination of Captain Swift, Hamlet, and the Tempter; the paradoxical pessimist was a reminder of Mr. Wilde's comedies, the bishop and scientist were in the manner of Mr. Jones. How clever! Social satire *à la Savoy*, *séance à la salle Egyptienne*, sleep-walking *à la Bellini*, moonlight poetry *à la Christabel*, a touch of spice *à la Française*, and copious confession *à la Norvégienne*, all baked into one pie. How characteristic! And characteristic, mark you, not only of Mr. Buchanan's chaotic cleverness, but of Mr. Tree's experimental eclecticism. Did I say an epitome of the Haymarket plays? This is but another way of saying an abstract and brief chronicle of the time, to whose age and body Mr. Tree so shrewdly holds up the mirror. For this dying century of ours is all things to all men. We are living in the most picturesque confusion of the old and new known to history—in a cross-road of chronology where all the ages meet. 'Tis a confusion of tongues out-babbling Babel, a simultaneous chattering of the centuries. And, more troubled than the Tower-builders, we understand one another better than we understand ourselves; again, like the "Charlatan," half odic force, half fraud, who is never so honest as when he confesses himself charlatan.

BUT this is not what I set out to say. There was a moral to the tale of my friend the absentee Apostle who was so cocksure about the crisis. This moral is that he has Continental blood in his veins. To these foreign corpuscles he owes the floridness of his outlook, his conception of the excited Englishman. The Englishman takes his authors placidly; he is never in a ferment or a frenzy about anything save politics or



religion: these are the poles of his life's pivot; he is not an artistic person. Art has



never yet taken the centre of the stage in his consciousness; it has never even been accepted as a serious factor of life. All the pother about plays, poems and pictures is made by small circles. Our art has never been national art: I cannot imagine our making the fuss about a great writer that is made about a second-rate journalist in Paris. A Victor Hugo in London is a thought *à faire vivre*. A Goethe at the court of Victoria, or directing Drury Lane Theatre, is of a comic-opera incongruity. Imagine Shakespeare in society! Our neighbours across the border have a national celebration of Burns' birthday—they think as much of him as of the Battle of Bannockburn. We English, who have produced the man whom the whole world acknowledges its greatest poet, have not even a Shakespeare Day. Surely Shakespeare Sunday would do as much good to the nation as Hospital Saturday or Shrove Tuesday! Charles Lamb wanted to say grace before reading Shakespeare, but the Puritans who make England so great and so dull are only thankful for stomachic mercies.

I cannot easily conceive our working ourselves up to such enthusiasm as the Hungarians lately displayed over the jubilee of Jokai, an enthusiasm that resounded even unto this country, and shook the *lacunar aureum* of the Holborn Restaurant with shouts of "Eljen." It is true that the Hungarians are a peculiar people: they put their Christian name after their surname; they conjugate their verb in the middle of their noun; they invited me to their banquet to represent English literature, and they refrained from asking Swinburne because they "didn't know his address" (!). I gracefully assumed that I had been invited because I was a Bohemian, "from the beautiful city of Prague," and took pains to prove that I was not really a gifted mortal by waltzing at the ball, which—with characteristic incongruity—followed the literary speeches. But the ruse failed, for an eminent Hungarian painter told me it was the first time he had

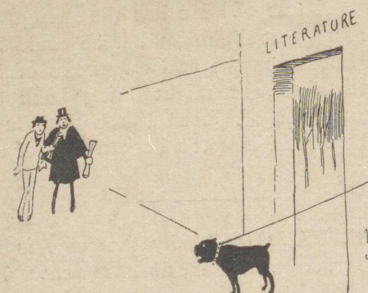
seen a clever man dance, and evidently regarded it as peculiar to English literature. Certainly very few of the clever Hungarians present seemed able or willing to join in the Czardas, but they explained to me that the national dance lost half its effect unless danced in national costume.

The peculiarity of the Hungarian temperament does not, however, entirely explain their joy in Jokai. He is so much more than a mere novelist, poet and dramatist, with three or four hundred volumes (one need not be particular to a hundred with this modern Lope de Vega) to his credit. He is also a soldier and a politician, skilful with the sword as well as the pen, and with the tongue as well as the sword. He has drawn blood with each and all of these weapons, and though nowadays he often votes in the House without inquiring what he is voting for till he has recorded his vote, this does not diminish his claims to practical wisdom. He married the leading actress of Hungary, who, without waiting for an introduction, rushed forward from the audience to present him with a bunch of flowers when a play of his made a hit. Fancy Ellen Terry rushing forward to present Pinero with



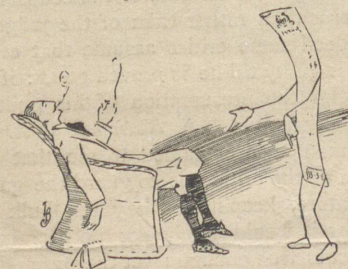
a bunch of flowers at the conclusion of *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*! No, the thing is as impossible in England as the combination of rôles in Jokai himself. The idea of letting a man be at once man of letters and man of action! Why, we scarcely allow that a man of letters may occupy more than one pigeonhole! If he is a poet, we will not admit he can write prose—forgetting that is just what most poets do. If he is a novelist, he cannot write plays—the truth being, of course, that it is the playwrights who cannot write plays. If he is a humourist he can never be taken seriously, and if he

not the true critic be an interpreter? For bad work let him award the damnation of



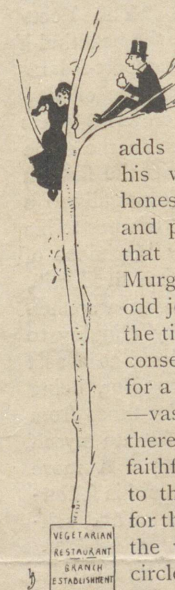
silence. "It is better to fight for the good than to rail at the ill."

It is a great privilege to praise. It is a great joy to give an artist the joy of being understood. Not every artist arrives at the divine standpoint: "And God saw all that He had made, and behold it was very good." The human creator is not always content with the rapture of creation. He sits lonely amid his worlds. Neglect may be the nurse of strength, but as often it is the handmaid of idleness. The artist without an audience will smoke the enchanted cigarettes of Balzac. The rough labour of execution is largely the labour of conveying to others what the artist already feels and sees. Why should he toil thanklessly? It is sweeter to dream. Even the money that art produces may be a valuable incentive. Not, of course, if the artist aims at the money; but art wrought for love may bring in money, like a woman married for love. In so far as the lover has his eye on the dowry, in so far his love is vitiated; and in so far as the artist has his eye on the profits, in so far is he untrue to a mistress who demands undivided allegiance. Nonetheless, the *auri sacra fames* may be his salvation.



What subtle sympathy connects *fama* with *fames*? The butcher's bill may drive him

from the dreamland of luxurious meditation to the practical embodiment of his dreams. Only, while he is at work, the laws of art alone must be his masters; he must not alter or abate a jot by way of concession to the great cash question. When he has completed his work, then indeed he may sell it in the best market. But the least preliminary paltering with the spirit of commerce is a degradation. Does this seem an ideal demand? Let us remember, then, ideals are goads and goals, counsels of perfection. No one expects people to quite come up to them, but it is better for human nature that they should be there. For there *is* something in hero-worship, despite Carlyle's grandiosities, provided you choose your hero wisely. We do, in this valley of doubt and confusion, touched with false sparkles, follow men who speak from their souls sincerely, who work from their hearts. Instinctively we feel it degrading and disillusionising that inspiration shall be paid in hard cash, and genius entered on the credit side of a ledger. Does a man plead that he has to support his wife and children? Well, in the first place, he need not have got them. In the second, one may be admirable as a man, but as an artist abominable. Still it is better that a man should write Adelphi dramas than that his starving family should qualify for scenes in them. All honour to the artist who lives on



bread and water in a garret rather than prostitute his art! but less honour to the man who lives on *my* bread, and adds somebody else's whisky to his water, rather than earn an honest living by dishonest books and plays. This was the question that split up the Bohemians of Murger. While the majority did odd jobs for the Philistines, to have the time for real art, the very poet consenting to write Alexandrines for a dentist at fifteen sous a dozen—vastly cheaper than oysters—there was an inner band of the faithful who preferred starvation to the desecration of their genius for the unsaleable. Even so among the vegetarians there is a holier circle that eats only nuts and fruits. The sensible artist will compromise. There is in political economy a

in a recent *Contemporary Review*. What a chance for a much-needed onslaught on our minor prophets! It might have been "English bards and Scotch reviewers" over again. But no! the Scotch reviewer's weapon is merely a rose-water squirt. The only thing that perturbates him (as Mr. Francis Thompson would say) is my assertion in this Magazine that a ray of hopefulness is stealing again into English poetry (a position whose defence I must postpone). Since the days of Jeffreys we have only had one really "first-class fighting man" (Henley); but even with him there is no real party fighting, for he is catholic in his antipathies, and those whom he chastises love him, and swear that his is the least jaded Pegasus of the century. In token whereof I hereby recommend all and sundry to taste the honey of the Henley rod in the dainty two-volume edition of his poetry published by Nutt. You see, therefore, how well-balanced we are in this "happy isle, set in a silver sea." The Fogeys are respectful to the young men, and the young men actually admire the Fogeys. That the young men admire one another goes without saying. Here surely is "the atmosphere of praise" of Mr. Pinero's horation.

BUT literary men have always admired one another. Read "The Poets' Praise" (Elliot Stock), the beautiful if bulky volume that Miss Davenport-Adams has edited so charmingly, and see of how much fine feeling and true criticism poets are capable when praising men in the same trade. At one time it was quite the fashion to append to a poet's verses (especially to a minor poet's) a set of poetical tributes to his greatness; now superseded by "Opinions of the Press." I would the custom lived still, for having sufficient skill to indite a sonnet, I might go down to posterity clinging to the skirts of, say, John Davidson, as a sort of rhyming tag to his *Plays*. But, being debarred by the coldness of the times from a parasitic immortality, I compensate myself by a more discriminate eulogy. A more complex and fantastic genius than his fellow-Scot, Henley, he is also less sure and self-possessed. Brimful of thought and beauty as his plays are, they are marred by a whimsical perversity, a lack of coherence, grip, and characterisation. His is always a

Random Itinerary, and he has not yet found himself. But when found he should be made a classic of. He has the strength of pinion for great flights, and if he could but adapt himself to the real exigencies of the dramatic form, he might bring back the spacious times of Queen Elizabeth. But I fear there is in him too deep a vein of the cryptic.

MR. DAVIDSON, by the way, is no crude craftsman, no *dilettante*. He has been duly apprenticed to the Muses; and now, I hear, Mr. Francis Thompson is also learning in suffering what he will presently be teaching in song. Let us hope the special form of suffering inflicted by incompetent critics will teach him to shed his Latin polysyllables and to be content with the public dictionary. It is a triumph for Mr. Thompson that, writing in bad English, he is yet able to achieve a frequent stateliness and massiveness of effect. But how much better he is in his lucid moments, how dainty, how true a poet! If Mr. Besant's school of literature were in existence, Mr. Thompson should be sent there and placed with the babes and sucklings, and allowed to write only in monosyllables. After a month of monosyllables he might be conceded a few dissyllables (strictly Saxon). Even when he rose to the sixth form he should be sternly forbidden the hyphen, else he would be eternally playing double-sixes.

WHILE, you see, I do not believe that art is best nourished in an "atmosphere of praise," preferring to read instead "an atmosphere of appraisal," I believe that of this appraisal the more important element is "praise." Criticism with the praise left out savours of the counsel for the prosecution rather than of the judge,—and indeed some critics assume that every author is guilty till he is proved good: if he is popular the presumption of his guilt is almost irresistible. A *National Observer* young man once explained to me that the function of the critic was to guard the gates of literature, keeping at bay the bulk of print, for it would surely not be literature. This last is true enough; yet the watch-dog attitude generates a delight to bark and bite, and turns critic literally into cynic. Should

"Of course, when one lives in foreign parts, one may die there; but I always thought, in cases like that, they was brought home to their family vaults."

It may seem strange for me to think of anything funny at a time like this, but when Miss Pondar mentioned family vaults when talking of Lord Edward, there came into my mind the jumps he used to make whenever he saw any of us coming home; but I saw what she was driving at, and the mistake she had made.

"Oh," I said, "he was not a member of the British nobility: he was a dog. Lord Edward was his name. I never loved any animal as I loved him."

I suppose, madam, that you must sometimes have noticed one of the top candles of a chandelier, when the room gets hot, suddenly bending and drooping and shedding tears of hot paraffine on the candles below, and perhaps on the table; and if you can remember what that overcome candle looked like, you will have an idea of what Miss Pondar looked like when she found out Lord Edward was a dog. I think that for one brief moment she hugged to her bosom the fool belief that I was intimate with the aristocracy, and that a noble lord, had he not departed this life, would have been the first to welcome me home, and that she—she herself—was in my service. But the drop was an awful one. I could see the throes of mortified disappointment in her back as she leaned over a bed of pinks, pulling out young plants, I am afraid, as well as weeds. When I looked at her I was sorry I let her know it was a dog I mourned. She is such a good woman, and has tried so hard to make everything all right for Jone and me while we have been here, that she might just as well have gone on thinking that it was a noble earl who died.

To-morrow morning at breakfast we shall have our last Devonshire clotted cream; for they tell me this is to be had only in the west of England, and when I think of the beautiful hills and vales of this country I shall not forget that.

Of course we would not have had time to stay here longer even if Jone hadn't got the rheumatism; but if he had to have it, for which I am as sorry as anybody can be, it is a lucky thing that he did have it just about the time that we ought to be going away, anyhow. And although I did not think, when we came to England, that we should ever go to Buxton, we are thankful that there is such a place to go to—although, for my part, I can't help feeling disappointed that the season isn't such that we could go to Bath and Evelina and Beau Brummel.

FRANK R. STOCKTON.

(To be continued.)





THE GREAT DRAMATIC CRISIS—THE CHARLATAN—ART IN ENGLAND—THE JUBILEE OF JOKAI—LITERATURE AND LIFE—IN PRAISE OF SOME POETS—THE FUNCTION OF CRITICISM—SHOULD ARTISTS WORK FOR MONEY?—BOOKS BY NON-UNIVERSITY MEN—SPRING IN THE STRAND.

MY friend the Apostle was in hot haste, and would not stay to be contradicted. "Not going to-night!" he cried, in horror-struck accents. "Why, to-night is the turning-point in the history of the British drama! To-night is the test-battle of the old and the new; it is the shock of schools, the clash of nature against convention. This play will decide the fate of our drama for the rest of the century. Here you have a play by a leader of the old school produced at a leading theatre. If it succeeds, the old drama may linger on for a year or two more; but if it fails, it will be the death-blow of the old gang. They may pack up!" The Apostle was at the other end of the street ere I had taken in the full import of these brave words. What! there was a crisis in the drama, and I, living in the heart

of art, had heard nothing about it! Fortunately it was not too late. I could still make amends for my ignorance. It was still open to me to assist at this historic contest, for the arena was to be the Haymarket, where I am a *persona gratis*. Visions of the great first night of *Hernani* thronged tumultuously before me; my blood pulsed with something of its ancient youthful ardour as I girded my loins with black trousers for the fray, adjusted my white tie with faltering fingers. I had half a mind to don a *gilet rouge*, in the reflection that my wardrobe did not boast of coloured waistcoats gave the victory to the other half. I dashed up to the theatre. All was placid. The stalls were packed with a brilliant audience in correct and unemotional costume. There were classic faces, and romantic faces, and faces that were realistic,

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a person with an easily disengageable sub-consciousness. Mr. Lang's logic is curious when he argues that my explanation is shaky because physical causes should be invariable. Of course physical causes are invariable in their action, but not in their presence. It may be that, with some very hard-headed persons, the sub-consciousness cannot disengage itself at all. Mr. Lang appears to be one of them. His fingers cannot even produce raps from a table. Perhaps they have produced too much. But even the average medium never professes to get raps unaided. Circles are formed more or less mystic, and no self-respecting spirit will appear without being received in state with extinguished lights and creepy accompaniments. The unconscious revelations made by the sitters are the sole genuine foundation of the spiritualists' influence. Consciousness holds converse with deceased relatives, and sub-consciousness, which knows all about them, answers for them. This, with the supposition of involuntarily produced movements of the table (table-turning) and molecular disturbances in its substance (table-rapping), constitutes all my theory. The idea that the hands become suckers I lay no store by. It is a mere suggestion to account for *alleged* complete raisings in the air, though several of my correspondents have misunderstood me, with much technical accuracy; and one, a consulting engineer, says: "Shall I be rude if I say that you are utterly, hopelessly misinformed?" However, I forgive this insulting engineer, because he agrees with the rest of the theory and buys my books instead of getting them from Mudie's. "I remember how in my younger days," says he, "I found out these and many other dodges, and thereby passed as a medium until I laughed in the faces of my innocent dupes, and thereafter passed as a derider of all things holy and good, including the pious pastime of spirit-rapping. I have challenged and outdone many of the media, shown them all to be frauds, but I have not gained publicity, as thereby comes obloquy." Another of my many correspondents objects to my sub-consciousness *spelling out* "The Road to Fortune," words which I had received as sounds. But I might have seen them, and in any case the sound of a word is for me inextricably mixed up with its spelling. He refers me to an interesting parallel case in Scott's *Antiquary* (chap. x.),

which is explained by Oldbuck in chap. xiv. Lovel sleeps in the haunted Green Room at Monkbarns, and is visited by a vision of the first proprietor, who points out a passage in a volume he holds in his hands. This passage, in a language unknown to Lovel, remains riveted in his memory. Afterwards (chap. xi.) he recognises it in the motto—"Kunst macht Gunst"—of a book shown him by Monkbarns, and the latter explains the mystery thus: he had repeated the motto earlier in the evening in Lovel's hearing. Lovel's mind was bent elsewhere, but his ear had mechanically received and retained the sounds, and his "busy fancy" (as Sir Walter calls the sub-consciousness) had introduced the scrap of German into his dream. Here there is a translation from sound to image, which seems to me to be quite in accordance with psychology. The sound, spelling, and sight of a word are all mentally intertangled. Indeed, I am quite of the Antiquary's opinion: "It is thus we silly mortals deceive ourselves and look out of doors for motives which originate in our own wilful will." Sub-consciousness is quite enough to account for all the curious phenomena that really occur. It is a greater marvel in itself than any that it explains, and beats the spooks hollower than they are. Just consider the phenomena of dreams, what things we do, what sights we see. It is only the commonness of dreams that blinds us to the fact that they are more marvellous than ghost-stories. Mr. Lang thinks the theory of the sub-conscious self that uses our muscles for its own ends is "the most startling thing ever offered to the public; and that it should be regarded as true by a sceptic, is staggering to our judicial faculties." But why? Our noble selves—are they not already exposed to the indignity of dreams? What matters another insult? We need not be greatly put out if sub-consciousness is busy in the day-time too. And what about somnambulism? What about musical or literary creation? Are not our ideas made for us in the kitchen of our sub-consciousness? Our consciousness is only a small part of ourselves. What produced De Quincy's opium dreams was certainly not consciousness. I can see visions, myself, without opium. In certain excited states of the brain I can travel in my chair, or bed, perfectly awake; through an endless and variegated series of scenes

—domestic interiors with people talking or eating or playing cards, battle-fields with glittering phalanxes, beautiful tossing seas, gorgeous forests, melancholy hospitals, busy newspaper offices, etc., etc. These are almost entirely detached from my will, and the chief interest of the spectacle is the unexpectedness of its episodes. The scenes and the people have all the concreteness and detail of actuality, although I never forget that I am observing my own hallucinations. Just fancy what ghosts I could see in the dark if I lost my central control and let my sub-consciousness get the upper hand. Sociologists say, the seeing of dead people in dreams gave rise to the idea of ghosts. I would suggest that the same process as that of dreaming gives rise to the ghosts themselves. There is probably no story in Mr. Frederick Greenwood's interesting gossip, *Imagination in Dreams* (John Lane) which cannot be explained by sub-conscious processes, not including telepathy. Great is the sub-consciousness! Who shall say what it does not contain, either *in esse* or *in posse*? Till we have exhausted the sub-consciousness, let us not talk of spooks.

And in talking of the sub-consciousness, mind you, I do not pretend to any scientific precision. I could write you fine-drawn metaphysical objections to the term by the yard. But it does loosely express a great region of our mental life, and to confound the spiritualists 'twill serve.

"Free as the whim
Of a spook on a spree,"

the poets who have collaborated in *Vagabondia* describe themselves. And the ways of their collaboration are certainly mysterious as those of spooks.

For how can two people write poetry together? Collaboration in prose I partly understand. I have done it myself, and my experience of collaboration is that either one person does all the work or neither does any work. Collaboration in dramatic poetry I can faintly conceive, as with Michael Field, Michael doing, say the plot, and Field the poetry. But how can the lyric be done in conjunction? How can two persons, not twins, thrill simultaneously with the same

subjective emotion? They must truly be "hail fellows, well met," this Bliss Carman and Richard Hovey, who have combined to produce *Songs from Vagabondia*, one of the most exhilarating volumes of poems that have reached me for many a day. It is emphatically of the *plein air* school. Here you may catch again that ecstasy, that fine careless rapture, which palpitates in Whitman's "Song of the Road," or Stevenson's essay on "Walking Tours." These woodland truants blend their joyous whoops to so single a note that you cannot tell one from t'other. They are sweet and lovely in their lines, and even in their dedication they are not disentangled:

"To H. F. H. for debts of love unpaid
Her boys inscribe this book that they have made."

Besides "H. F. H." our troubadours eulogise an Isabel and various other ladies, all of which is woundily perplexing. Are these singers synchronised to fall in love—



and with the same woman? And is it not awkward?

"O love, how came I here?
Shall I wake at thy side and smile at my dream,
The dream that grips me so hard that I cannot wake nor stir?
O Love! O my own love! found but to be lost."

On which the natural comment is "which?" For the rest, these lines are an unfair specimen of the book, which, although it contains roughnesses of workmanship it would have been worth while to remove, rarely falls to such a blank level of pseudo-Whitmanese as this. The main note of the book is, on the contrary, its careless rush of rhyme.

O that mine enemy had written a book! Mr. Heinemann, my publisher-in-chief, has not indeed written a book, but his play, *The First Step*, having been prohibited by the Censor, he has had to publish it in a book. The Lord Chamberlain hath delivered him



is accepted seriously he must be careful to conceal his sense of the humour of the position. Not only so, but we insist on the sub-sub-specialisation which Adam Smith showed to be so profitable in the making of pins, and which, passing from the factory to the laboratory, now threatens to pass from science into literature. Having analysed away the infinitely great, we are now concentrating ourselves on the apotheosis of the infinitely little.

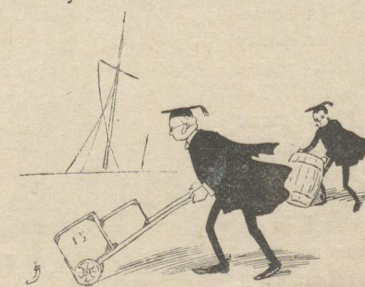
A priori, one would think action the salvation of the literary man, the corrective of "the fallacies of the den," the provider of that experience which is the raw material of literature, and prevents it from being spun out of the emptiness of one's own entrails. But the practical Briton knows better. He has never forgiven John Morley for going into politics (though I doubt not "honest John" would now find much to revise in his essay on *Compromise*); and he finds Socialism ever so much more Utopian since William Morris went into it. Can you imagine a true-born Briton following the flag of Swinburne, or throwing up a barricade with George Meredith? To the last Beaconsfield was suspected of persiflage because he wrote novels and was witty. Walter Besant gives half his time to philanthropic organisation on behalf of his fellow-authors and other lowly creatures; and his guerdon is to be called busybody, and to hear a proverb about a cobbler and a last; while as a reward for his exertions in bringing about the People's Palace somebody else is knighted. America makes her authors ministers and envoys, but England insists that brains are a disqualification for practical life. "Authors are so impractical: we don't want them to act—we only want them to teach us how to act." A chemist or an astronomer must needs isolate himself from the world to supply the pure theory on which the practical arts are founded, and so the *littérateur*, too, is expected to live out of the world in order to teach it how to live. But the analogy is false.

You can work out your mathematical calculations by the week, and hand over the results to the navigator. But the navigation of the stream of time is another matter. There is no abstract theory of life that can be studied without living oneself. Life is always concrete; it is built up of emotions, and you cannot have the emotions brought

into your study, as you can order in your hydrochloric acid or your frog's leg. As well expect anchorites to set the tune for men in the thick of the fight! They will chant Masses when they should be shouting Marseillaises. In despair our men of letters leave the country, and become politicians in little savage islands; or they leave the town and become invisible behind their haloes; or they take to golf in small Scotch cities, and

pretend that this satisfies their thirst for activity. Sometimes they turn market-gardeners

and fob off the interviewer with remarks about caterpillars. Browning was reduced to dining out. It may be contended that the writer must sequester himself to cultivate the Beautiful. But the Beautiful that has not its roots in the True is not the Good. Or it may be urged that active life would limit the writer's output. Exactly: that is one of the reasons that make active life so advisable. Every writer would write less and feel more. The crop of literature should only be grown in alternate years. As it is, a writer is a barrel-organ who comes to the end of his tunes, clicks, and starts afresh, just as a scholar is a revolving bookcase. Consider, too, how a holiday of action would disenthral the writer from the pettiness of cliques and coteries, with their pedantic atmosphere and false perspectives. I would have every University don work in the docks six months



a year (six months' idleness is surely quite enough for any man); every platonic essayist should attend a course of music-halls; and if I could afford it I would set up all the superfine critics in nice little grocers'

shops, with the cosiest of back parlours. Why, bless my soul! it is your man of culture, your author, your leader of thought, who is parochial, suburban, *borné*, and the rest of it! It is a commonplace that the Londoner is the most provincial of all Englishmen, living in sublime ignorance of what is thought and done in the rest of the kingdom; and in similar wise, when a man sneers at the *bourgeoisie*, I never think of looking up his pedigree in Debrett. It is, no doubt, extremely exasperating that the world was not created for the convenience and to the taste of artistic persons, but unfortunately the thing had to be turned out before their advice could be obtained.

That young England is more interested in life and football than in literature and arrangements in black and blue, is amply



My arrangement
is black and blue.

proved by the lethargy about the Laureateship. On the Continent the claims of the rivals would have set the students brawling and the journalists duelling; here it barely causes a ripple in the five-o'clock teacup. My friend the Apostle was not wholly wrong: there *is* a development of native drama ahead of us; only it will come about peaceably,—we shall not hear the noise of the captains and the shouting. And the old conventions have a long run yet before them. They cling even to the skirts of *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*. Indeed, the new school can scarcely be said to have appeared. The literary quality of our plays has improved, thanks to Jones and Pinero, and not forgetting Grundy (a somewhat unlucky dramatist, whose *Sowing the Wind* should have made him as rich as his *Old Jew*). And that is all. The old school is as vigorous as ever. In the person of *Charley's Aunt* it is alive and kicking up its petticoats, and the audience rolls in helpless laughter at Mr. Penley's slightest movement. Talk of literature, indeed! Why, the fortunate



The 2nd Mrs. T.
and Charley's Aunt.

comedian assured me that if he liked he could spin out *Charley's Aunt* from a two-hours' play to a four-hours' play, merely by eking out his own "business." Think of this, aspiring Sheridans, ye who polish the dialogue with midnight oil; realise the true inwardness of the drama, and go burn me your epigrams!

IN literature, where the clash of new and old is more audible, it is still the same story. On the conservative side, the real fighting is done by Messrs. Smith, who refuse to sell the too daring publication, or by the Government, which prosecutes the too prosperous publisher. The radicals are crippled by the timidity of editors, and cajoled by the fatness of their purses. That gifted young story-teller, Mr. Hubert Crackanthorpe, has been lecturing on the Revolt of the Authors. But it seems to me our literature has already as wide a charter as is desirable. The two bulwarks of the British library are Shakespeare and the Bible, and both treat human life comprehensively, not with the onesidedness of self-styled Realism. I would advise my young literary friends to emblazon on their banner "Shakespeare and the Bible." Real Realism is what English literature needs. "*Le Bête Humaine* is a poem," says John Addington Symonds in that delightful volume "*In the Key of Blue*." "Zola yields consciously to the incorrigible idealism of the artist." Mr. Symonds is thinking of the artificiality of his plot; but to my mind the unreality of his picture of the human beast lies in his failure to be just to the humanity of the beast. "*Tess of the D'Urbervilles*," though timid, has far more proportion than French novels of the same type. The one undoubted development in recent English literature is the short story. But this is less due to any advance in artistic aspiration than to the fact that there is a good serial market for short stories, and the turnover is quicker for the trader than if he turned out long novels. Small stories, quick returns! In verity, this much-vaunted efflorescence of the *conte* is due to the *compte*. It is quite characteristic of our nation to arrive at a new art form through this practical channel. But if you want a proof of the half-heartedness of our literary battles, turn to the "Fogey's" article on "The Young Men"

into my hands. Why a work of art which is unfit for ears polite may be disseminated by respectable tradesmen I do not pretend to understand, though the same nice distinction prevails in France, where the libretti of the annual *Revue*s ostentatiously announce themselves as containing all the verses *supprimés par la censure*. What can have possessed Mr. Heinemann, I wonder, to have entered the lists of authorship? Did he, with so many skulls for champagne-cups, grow weary of his purple splendours? Did he hire a garret in Grub Street, and, another Haroun al Raschid, go the round of the publishers? Did his manuscript come back



PUBLISHER.

to him, like the dove to the Ark, to settle at last upon the Bodley Head? Did he fail to publish his own work from the prudence of the author or the prudence of the publisher? And when he drew up his contract, did he draw it up in the usual form, or did he discover that it was not so equitable to authors as he had imagined? My fancy fondly dwells upon Mr. Heinemann's encounter with Mr. John Lane, Greek met with Greek. Perhaps Mr. Heinemann has had to pay the expenses of publication—"The First Step" always costs. Mr. Heinemann sub-entitles his play "A Dramatic Moment." It is certainly a dramatic moment in his career. Whether it is the first step to the stage, the workhouse, or the fourpenny-box, time alone can show. Up to the present he has received mainly abusive misunderstanding. For one thing, his play proves that Mr. Heinemann, in associating himself so largely with the "new" fiction, the fiction that faces life "without opium," as George Eliot puts it, has had more than a pecuniary interest in his publications, and this is surely the right function for a publisher. Every publisher worth his salt should stand for something. His business should be a sort of magazine which he edits. Thus no one can doubt how the Bodley Head has influenced English poetry.

Mr. Heinemann's play has four characters, all bad. There are two male friends and two sisters, all sinners and mostly vulgar. The love-making of Jack Durwen, man about town, and Lizzie, who is pert seventeen, is conducted in the commonplace dialogue

of real life. The selfish sensuality of Frank Donovan, dramatist and tippler, faithless to the girl who gives up all for him, may be matched in a hundred types in the London Bohemia of to-day, some of whom have, not improbably, denounced the play. In spite of some awkward Germanic turns of phraseology, *The First Step* develops inevitably, from the inherent stress of the position, with a rare grip of reality and with grim dramatic irony, and the tragedy of it all is only the more pitiful for being so sordid. But it is less by its matter than its form that Mr. Heinemann's play deserves attention. Unlike our professional dramatists to a man, he understands construction. He elects for the classical rather than the romantic form, and the influence of Ibsen is as evident as that of the Greeks. He is Greek in his careful preservation of the Unities both of Space and Time, and in the shadow of Nemesis which hovers over his conclusion. He follows Ibsen in his focussing of the moment, in his method of progression by retrospection. Ibsen always works backwards, gradually revealing through dialogue all that has led up to the crucial moment, which is the real subject of his play. An ingenious gentleman, Mr. Austin Fryers, once wrote a play to prove that Ibsen had blundered in *Rosmersholm* by choosing the period after Beata's suicide instead of "the really dramatic period" when Rebecca was egging on the poor wife to her grave in the millpond. But as that subtle critic, Mr. Addison Bright, pointed out, these were just the undramatic moments of the position, for Rebecca's method of getting Beata to efface herself must have consisted in a long series of insinuations, glances, shrugs at every other moment of the day, and this process could not be represented realistically upon the stage. The real dramatic moment was the one chosen by Ibsen, and his English publisher has imitated him in seizing the true dramatic moment of his own story; though for the rest Mr. Heinemann's work is quite on another plane than the great Norwegian's. It is simply a piece of life put down objectively. Imagination has not touched it with its transfiguring finger. It does not vibrate with significance—in short, it gives one all the pity and terror of tragedy, but somehow not the *katharsis*, not the purification which comes when the soul has been shaken. Mr. Heinemann is a man of culture, and it is his culture alone which has made his

play an agreeable variation on the stock puppet-show. It is a pity he did not choose a more cheerful "moment" for his first play, but having chosen the theme he did, it is a pity he cannot see it damned on the boards.

THE only man of culture who has avoided damnation on the boards, Mr. Oscar Wilde, has brought no such breath of novelty across the footlights as Mr. Heinemann attempted. There could be no greater antithesis to *The First Step* than Mr. Wilde's comedy *An Ideal Husband*, which has not even been forbidden by the Censor. Mr. Heinemann's dialogue is for the most part as dull as it is real, and Mr. Wilde's as witty as it is false. Mr. Heinemann's drama evolves, Mr. Wilde's happens; the one is an organism, the other a patchwork. Mr. Wilde goes to the first nights of his plays to see if his audience succeeds. I am sorry to admit that at the Haymarket Theatre I was a failure. I started very promisingly. The relation between Sir Robert Chiltern and his wife seemed an admirable theme for comedy. That a wife shall discover her political hero, whom she has married, her type of stainless probity in public life, has built his career upon the dishonourable sale of a Government secret to a speculator in Suez Canal shares, and that she should thus be brought to a wider catholicity and a readjustment of her conceptions of human perfectibility,—this struck me as an excellent dramatic theme, a conception so in the big vein of comedy that one expected an answering adequacy of execution. True, I failed a little to understand how any man could have been such a fool as to tell this secret in an ordinary letter, instead of whispering it bird-like in Baron Arnheim's ear, or at the very least conveying it through a cryptogrammic code. However, I reflected that it had to be a letter, and also that Baron Arnheim would not burn it, in order that, "twenty years after," it might fall into the hands of the stage-adventuress, who is wicked even to the point of cigarettes; and so I hoped there might still be a gleam of success for me. But as the play progressed, despair gained upon me, modified only



by my success in seeing, and sometimes even in foreseeing, the epigrams, though here again I trembled apprehensively at my failure to perceive their relevancy to the character of the utterer or to the movement of the piece. When I found that the wicked adventuress lost a jewel, that the friend of the hero picked it up, that it was the very same jewel



he had given ten years ago to a girl, from whom it had been stolen by the wicked adventuress, who was thus unmasked and outwitted, ha, ha!—when I saw this amalgam of Sardou and the penny novelette,—my suspense as to Mr. Wilde's verdict on me grew so intolerable that I was sorry I had not passed the anxious hours smoking my cigar on the Embankment. And when I found that the grave moral problem propounded by the position had been finally solved by wrong ladies in bachelors' rooms at improper hours, after the fashion of a Criterion farce, I broke down so utterly that I almost felt like asking for my order back. I asked myself in amaze how this brilliant man of letters, this poet, this wit, this thinker, whose Socratic influence upon our youth has set them all sowing their Oscar Wilde oats, could lose his sense of literature the moment he passed through the stage door. Can it be that he believes in the Scribe formula, or in the bad old British formula of external machinery? Can it be that he does not perceive that lost, stolen and found bracelets are almost indelicately irrelevant to the explication of the psychical position of Sir Robert and his wife? Can it be that he writes serious comedy for trivial people only, just as he writes trivial comedy for serious people, and that earnest is nothing but a name to him? Perhaps it is a piece of Mr. Wilde's paradox to be unconventional only in his epigrams. That I succeeded splendidly with these I have already boasted. Some of them even had the last relish of wit—truth. Perhaps

from the Paraguayan Government they had obtained a sufficient endowment of land and cattle, and in September 1893 two hundred and sixty pioneers arrived to found the colony, which was to be absolutely self-contained, on a Socialistic-communistic-co-operative basis. It lasted just three months. The Individualistic spirit proved too strong for the Socialistic. Many of the original pioneers broke away and crossed into Bolivia or tramped to Buenos Ayres, and those who were destitute had their passages back to Sydney paid by the Agent-general in London. So ended one of the latest Socialistic schemes, which seemed to start at the outset under most favourable conditions.

"*It is in the interests of the poor* that we fight against Socialism. Our reason for believing that Socialism means a hell on earth for the poor is, at any rate, one which can be stated in a dozen words, and one which can be understood by plain men and women; and that is a good deal more than can be said for the Fabian Essays. Our reason is this. What is wanted to abolish poverty and material misery is more good houses, more food, more clothes, more tea, more tobacco, more knowledge, more hope, more faith—more, in a word, of all the things man desires. Whatever system, then, produces most of these things is the best, for it will give more to go round. We believe not only that the system of free trade and free enterprise, of individualism and independence, will produce far more than the Socialistic system, but that the system of municipalisation would reduce production to starvation point, and leave little or nothing to go round. We may be right, or we may be wrong; but at any rate we Free Traders hold this view. But this being so, we should fail in our duty to our fellows if we did not oppose the Socialists at every point."—*Spectator*, July 29th, 1893. Although we may not believe in Socialism as a cure, we may still feel that the present state of things must be amended: there are not many important industries in the country at the present time which are in a paying or satisfactory condition, and it is most lamentably true that to large numbers of men the chances of fixed employment are becoming more difficult to obtain; but under these circumstances no scheme of Socialism ever yet invented would prove a remedy for the poverty which exists, and, believing as I do that these troubles are to a great extent wholly uncalled for by the economic conditions, and are mainly due to financial reasons, it is impossible not to feel terrified at the imminent danger which now exists of remedies being applied which, in their inevitable consequences, will intensely aggravate the disease.

The present agitation against the House of Lords is immediately caused by their rejection of a Bill which received no very enthusiastic support from a small majority of a House of Commons in which the junior partner has twenty votes too many while the predominant partner has twenty votes too few. The issues at the next general election are so complicated already, ranging as they do from allotments to Home Rule, and from Disestablishment to Local Veto, and a voter will be voting for Home Rule for Ireland and Irish Rule for England, for Disestablishment, and for Local Option, when he is really voting for allotments and pigsties, that it is much to be regretted that a "tremendous" Revolution is to be added to them. But if there is any truth in the contentions which I have raised above as to the direction in which we are moving at an ever-increasing pace, it is to be hoped that, until it is definitely stated what constitutional checks are to be placed on the power, or rather the tyranny, of a "log-rolling" majority in the House of Commons, a large majority of the people in this country will think once, twice, and thrice before they follow Lord Rosebery into his "tremendous" but vague Revolution.

W. H. GRENFELL.