

NOTES ABOUT THE QUEEN.

UNFORGOTTEN AND HITHERTO UNKNOWN INCIDENTS.

The Royal Diadem—A Peculiar Birthday Gift—Before She Was Eighteen—As a Peacemaker.

The crown used during the stately functions of the commemoration is the tiara which is familiar to this generation in sketches of the Queen when holding a drawing-room. This was manufactured by the State Jewellers in 1862 at the personal cost of her Majesty, and, in general terms, may be said to weigh eight troy ounces. It is a light shell of gold, entirely encrusted with diamonds, and comprises 2,673 brilliants, besides 523 rose diamonds, making an aggregate of 3,196 stones. It is retained in the charge of the Sovereign, and is a personal possession, and, to all intents and purposes, never requires any attention. It was specifically devised for use in conjunction with a veil, and apart from the drawing-rooms has scarcely been used at all.

THE OLD CROWN.

The Crown was preceded in point of time by a diadem or circlet of gold, choicely bejewelled, which was made for the Queen in 1858. The stones used on this occasion, which are wholly diamonds, were in the main Crown jewels, and the diadem will therefore remain the property of the Crown, although the cost of mounting them for the use of her Majesty was borne out of the Privy Purse. The diadem is technically known as a circlet, surmounted by the cross pates, whereof the Maltese cross is a decoration variant and the fleur-de-lis. The general effect of this crown is excellently shown in the current coinage, in which it is half concealed by a veil, which was not worn in the early years of the reign, when this form of circlet was in ordinary use; and, indeed, there would seem to be some doubt as to whether the peculiar form of coronet depicted on the present coin issues has ever been adopted by the Queen in actual use at all. It was this diadem, and another of a like shape that preceded it, which was used when her Majesty opened or prorogued Parliament, and also on such occasions as the marriage of the Princess Royal.

On every occasion on which the Queen visited the House of Lords the State Crown was taken out of the Regalia room in the Tower of London and was borne before her on a cushion. Except for this purpose, the Crown has only left the Tower on two occasions during the reign—once for repair—some part of the setting having become loosened, and once in order to modify the ermine. The Crown has never been actually worn by the Queen at any functions whatever since the act of Coronation sixty years ago, and there is nothing in the episodes of the forthcoming commemoration that will require its removal from the Tower. The State Crown was made for the Queen by Messrs. Rundell & Bridge, the predecessors of the Garrards, the present holders of the appointment, and its construction is familiar history. It may, however, be interesting at this juncture to say that the estimated value at that time of its stones—comprising 2,783 diamonds, 277 pearls, 16 sapphires, 11 emeralds and 4 rubies—was £112,760, apart from the priceless ruby which belonged to Edward, the Black Prince, and a large sapphire, purchased by George IV. In the opinion of competent experts, the stones still have an intrinsic worth of a like sum even if no account be taken of the value that would attach to their illustrious associations.—St. James' Gazette.

A BIRTHDAY GIFT.

One of Queen Victoria's birthday gifts was a peculiar one. From times almost immemorial, up to 1834, it appears the city of Gloucester was in the habit of expressing its loyalty to the Throne by sending to its reigning sovereign a lamprey pie. In the year mentioned the ancient custom fell into desuetude, but it was revived in 1893, and has been followed with full appreciation of its picturesque character. This year the people of Gloucester felt that they should make a special effort, and the pie sent to Balmoral, besides being on a gold plate, was itself of an unusually elaborate character. It weighed twenty pounds and was adorned with truffles, fine prawns, on gold skewers, and aspic jelly. On top of the pie was a representation in gold of the Royal Crown and Cushion, with a scepter, to which were attached streamers of royal blue, and at the base were four lions, also of gold. The golden skewer heads were in the form of Crowns, and there were six lions heads in gold round the pie. On either side of the centre crown was a silk bannerette. One bore the city arms and the name of the mayor of Gloucester, and on the other were two lampreys entwined beneath a crown, and a scroll setting forth that the "mayor's lamprey pie" was sent in accordance with "Gloucester's ancient custom from the Norman period to the Victorian era." All this was hand-painted, as were two shields, one being a view of Gloucester's celebrated cathedral, and the other the monogram "V. R." a crown, and the dates of 1837-1897. The lamprey was at one time considered a great delicacy, and it is a matter of history that a sarcel of them caused the death of King Henry I. In the reign of Henry IV., so highly were they esteemed, that special protections were granted to such vessels as might bring them in; and his successor supplied a warrant to William of Nantes for supplying him and his army with them

wherever they might happen to march. BEFORE THE QUEEN WAS EIGHTEEN.

The following describes the pains that were taken to familiarize the Queen with the country over which she had to reign while she was still a minor: "After the accession of King William IV., when the Princess stood next in succession to the throne, tours were made through nearly every part of England and Wales. The mere list of the places to which visits were thus paid would surprise and interest the reader. More than sixty years ago the Queen had, for example, visited the cathedrals of Salisbury, Winchester, Worcester, Hereford, Oxford, Chester, Bangor, Lichfield, Exeter, York, and Peterborough; she had inspected the great ports or arsenals at Portsmouth, Plymouth, and Woolwich; she had been present at an Eisteddfod; she had seen Stonehenge, and Stratford-on-Avon, and Kenilworth; she had been over the cotton mills at Belper, the glass works at Birmingham, the nail works at Bromsgrove; she had been a guest at great country houses, such as Eastwall Park, Alton Towers, Eaton Hall, Chatsworth, Wytham Abbey, Wentworth House, Bishopsthorpe, Harewood, Belvoir and Hatfield."

THE QUEEN AS PEACEMAKER.

Again and again she has intervened, with striking success, to conciliate the rancour of party strife, or to avert dangerous collisions between the two Houses of Parliament and the Opposition. One glimpse of such an intervention was given in the life of Archbishop Tait, from which the public learned, for the first time, in how large a measure it owed to the Queen the peaceful settlement of the Irish Church question. Similar examples of more recent date might be quoted, if they did not turn upon disputes that have not been finally determined. But when the time comes to reveal the forces at work behind the course of political events during the present reign, it will be found that, for the smooth working of the constitutional machinery within the last sixty years, the nation is indebted to no one more than to Queen Victoria. Nor is it only at those stormy crises of domestic or foreign politics which arrest the public gaze that her influence has been exerted. Throughout her long reign the calm, moderating pressure of her hand has been so general and pervasive that, like the pressure of the atmosphere, its touch has been unfeigned. No statesman has ever come in contact with her without being impressed by her singular powers of concentration; very few, and those not always the most capable of estimating the capacity of others, have failed to feel that, compared with her wide knowledge and long experience of affairs, their own acquaintance with politics is short and superficial.

BRITISH COLONIAL POLICY.

A French Canadian Paper Praises Its Wisdom.

Referring to the Queen's jubilee celebration the *Moniteur du Commerce*, of Montreal, says:—"The vast British Empire, the various portions of which have almost no geographical cohesion, so scattered are they over every continent, is, nevertheless, all things considered, the most peaceful imperial domain in the whole world.

To keep up that peace, which, in its turn, makes civilization progress, the crown of England does not need millions of men armed to the teeth, as on the European continent. It has a few thousand soldiers stationed everywhere, and who are accompanied, where need be, by a few men-of-war to patrol the seas of the coast of its far-away possessions. It cannot be denied that the secret of that peace and prosperity lies in the wisdom of England's colonialization system. England looks upon its colonial possessions as commercial factories rather than drains for the flocking of men in search of lucrative positions and whose object is personal speculation to the detriment of the nations to be civilized or already civilized."

The article then goes on to say that things have changed since three-quarters of a century when English colonial functionaries treated conquered nations more or less like slaves. The British government profited by the lesson of three rebellions caused by the bad administration of its subordinates, namely, the American revolution in 1775, the Canadian rebellion of 1837, and the Indian mutiny of 1857. Since 1837 Canada has enjoyed profound peace, and has had, as a rule, but to congratulate itself on the manner in which it has been treated by England.

THE WORLD'S CURRENCY.

A Comparison of the Coins of the Principal Countries Which is Interesting.

Two very interesting questions have been offered by one of our English contemporaries, and which are rarely touched upon except from the dry-as-dust standpoint of statisticians. They are:—How much coin is there in circulation? and What is the money appetite of different parts of the world?

Answering the first question the writer states that of the three most valuable mediums—gold, silver and paper—there is over \$12,000,000,000 in circulation, divided as follows:—Gold, \$3,775,000,000; silver, \$3,375,000,000; paper \$4,400,000,000. Copper coins are not taken into consideration.

The comparison of the gold coin held in different nations is shown by a table which places France in the first place, the United Kingdom second and the United States third. In silver coin India holds first place, France second, and the United States third, with England a poor fifth. This answers the second question.

In twenty years the specie reserve in the banks of the world has trebled, while the paper issue has only risen thirty-three per cent. The ratio of paper money in general use in 1870 was 38 per cent, and in 1890 79 per cent. It also appears that the amount of capital employed in banking has almost doubled since 1870. The checks paid in New York and London in one month aggregated \$6,350,000,000.

YOUNG FOLKS.

GRAMMATICAL DECEPTION.

"I've a horrid time at school," Said Tommy, with a whine; "And I don't want to go any more To Miss Virginia Pine."

"'Twas plurals in the grammar book, Just 'cat-cats,' and bird-birds, Who wants to study half an hour On little bits o' words?"

"Say, ma, is grammar any good? We stood up to recite And everybody laughed because I didn't get things right."

"I thought I'd do just like the rest, And Bill said, 'man-men,' So when Miss Pine put 'fan' to me I piped right up, 'fan-fan.'"

"'Tooth' came to Fanny Smith, she said The plural form was 'teeth,' Say, ma, what made 'em giggle so When I said 'booth-beeth'?"

"'Goose,' said the teacher, and 'correct,' When busy answered 'geese,' 'Moose,' was the next word, and I 'p-osed

'Twas right to call it 'meese.'"

"A word that came to Joey Sims Was 'foot,' and he said feet; And then Miss Pine laughed out aloud Because I said 'boot-beet.'"

"But they all laughed the hardest when 'Cause Jimmy said 'mouse-mice,' I kinder smattered over 'house,' And said I guessed 'twas 'hice.'"

"When all the rest were marked with one, I only got a three; And I don't see why those queer words

Should all have come to me

"If I'd studied, teacher said, 'Cording to her directions, I would 'a found a little list Of what they call 'deceptions.'"

"Well, I thrashed Jimmy after school, But Billy, he thrashed me. Say, ma, don't make me go no more; 'Taint no use, I can see!"

APPLE PIE BOAT CLUB.

Hal Larcum sat thinking. The current of his thought was what he and his comrades would do for amusement that summer. Suddenly a thought seemed to suggest itself to him, and off to school he went. Recitations were rather neglected by Hal that afternoon and the teacher wondered what was the matter with the usually bright boy.

After school was out, Hal found five of his mates: Tom and Henry Boggs, Charlie Yelton, George Newton and John Hardy.

They went off with him eager to know what surprise he had in store for them. A few loafers standing around thought: "Those boys are into mischief."

"What do you want with us, Hal?" asked all the boys at once.

"Well, at noon I was sitting by myself thinking of what we boys would do for amusement this summer; when the thought came to me that we might have lots of fun, if we could form a club and buy us a boat. We could have races, and sham battles, and such things as that. This morning I was down to Ran Tonges, and he said he wanted to sell that boat of his. I asked him how much he wanted for it, and he said he would sell it cheap for cash. I say we had better buy it."

"But we don't know whether we have money enough," said Charlie Yelton.

"It won't take long to find out," answered Hal.

After the money was counted they found they had more than enough. The boat was bought and the boys began training.

At their suggestion six other boys organized another club. Hal's club was called the Apple Pie Club, and the boat was named "Helpmate."

One afternoon they went out on the lake for a row. Hal, who had at once been appointed captain, directed the boys to row to the other end of the lake. They were about half-way there, when Hal noticed a smoke issuing from a small cottage on the edge of the lake.

"Boys," he cried, "Widow Gesler's house is on fire! We must go for the fire engine!"

Around the boat was turned in a hurry and back to town they went.

Landing at the wharf, one of them went to the engine house, and notified the officers. The engine was soon going swiftly for the burning house. As it happened the roads were good and they arrived in time to save it. The widow was so thankful her home was saved that she at once inquired how the firemen learned the house was on fire. When she was told that the members of the Apple Pie Club gave the alarm she insisted on seeing each and every one of them. Great was their surprise and happiness when she praised them and said that if the Apple Pie Club continued to do such deeds as this through life, its members would surely become good and noble men.

That is what made the boys think their boat club was a success.

THEY PASS FOR LETTERS.

Grandma Stebbins looked down at the little pile of letters beside her plate with a smile as she said, "I am not going to read them until after breakfast, so I can take my time and enjoy them." Nevertheless, she could not resist the temptation to glance at the postmarks and decide whom each was from.

"Which do you think you will enjoy the most?" queried Mabel, curiously.

"I cannot tell yet, Mabel," replied grandma, though we noticed that Annie's bulky letter was reserved until the last.

She read John's first and quickly, and laid it aside with a satisfied air, as

she said, "John says they are all well, but he is very busy, so I must excuse his writing only a few words, now and then, but wants me to write often."

After reading little Bobby's letter she opened Lulu's letter and read down the first page, then she turned and twisted it with a puzzled air, as she said, "I thought this was a letter, but I guess it is some kind of a puzzle instead."

"Oh, I see what's the matter!" exclaimed Mabel, "Lulu aims to be stylish and modern. She has started straight, then taken a jump over on to the third page, then back to the second page, which she has written partly diagonal and the other part crosswise."

Grandma Stebbins laid down Lulu's letter with a sigh of relief, saying apologetically, "Lulu is a pretty writer and it is a nice letter, I guess, though old folks like me, don't understand reading fashionable letters."

The next was Belle's letter, written in a bold, coarse hand, in a most business-like manner. "Belle always says what she thinks, but she does not waste much time over it," said grandma, with a laugh as she took up Annie's letter and carefully broke the seal.

A look of genuine pleasure stole over her face as she read, and at the close she exclaimed: "It's a beautiful letter! It may not be stylish like Lulu's or businesslike like Belle's, but she always writes about the things I like to hear. All about home and the people I know, and what they are all about, and how they are. I want you all to read it. It isn't hard work, it is all plain sailing with no crosscuts. It is real interesting and satisfying." And as she handed it back to grandma who carefully slipped it in her pocket so as to have it handy for a second perusal, we all agreed with her.

PROVERBS OF THE TURKS.

Short Sentences Containing Much Wisdom and Some Cynicism.

The following are a few proverbs translated from the Turkish language:

He who has lived long does not know much; but he who has travelled much knows much.

A true word is more bitter than poison.

If a horse dies, his saddle remains behind him; if a man dies, his name remains.

If an enemy be, as small as an ant, think him an elephant.

The rose grows from the thorn, and thorn from the rose.

He is a madman who, being rich, lives as if he were poor.

To the lazy man every day is a "Bayram"—fete.

A thousand sorrows do not pay one debt.

To-day's eggs are better than to-morrow's fowls.

Do good and cast it into the sea; if the sea does not recognize it, the Creator will.

Two captains sink the ship.

A little hill, in a low place, thinks itself a mountain.

Man is the mirror of man.

The tongue proclaims the man.

Death is a black camel which kneels at everybody's door.

Eat and drink with a friend, but do not trade with him.

The arrow which has been cast, does not come back.

He who spits at the wind, spits in his own face.

The soul is the companion of the soul.

He who knows his business, he who knows his companion, and he who knows his food does not get poor.

Believe not in the great; lean not on water; trust not in the wind; do not believe a woman's word, and do not trust to the courage of your horse.

He who does not learn how to serve will also not know how to act as master.

He who goes often to a friend sees a sour face.

God builds the nest of the blind bird.

Without trouble, one eats no honey.

Patience is the key to joy.

Hunger brings the wolf out of the wood.

What good is soap to a negro or advice to a fool?

A sweet tongue draws the snake forth from the earth.

Bagdad is not far to a lover.

He who wants a faultless friend remains friendless.

What the blind man deserves is two eyes.

A live fox is better than a dead lion.

He is most fortunate who is in his cradle.

A faithful friend is better than one's own relations.

A wife makes or breaks a house, "Karl evi yapar kara evi yakar."

Stretch out your legs according to the length of your quilt.

The wolf changes his coat, but he does not change his nature.

Give up your head, but not a scribe.

He who tells the truth is turned out of nine cities.

The eye wants a window which looks into the heart.

Vinagar which one gets for nothing is sweeter than honey.

The little must obey the great.

HEADING HER OFF.

What do you think of the proposition to tax whiskers?

I regard it as a direct blow at the new woman.

SHE DOUBTED IT.

I have been told, said she, as they sat in a shady corner of the porch, that you have rather a grasping disposition.

You don't believe it, do you? he asked.

Dear me, no. I have never seen you exhibit the least sign of catching on.

HIS OCCUPATION.

Stubb—Why do you say Gavin is merely a figurehead in your business?

Penn—He's our accountant, you know.

TO MAKE WAR ON LOCUSTS.

SCIENCE ENLISTED TO FIGHT THE PEST IN ARGENTINA.

Prof. L. Bruner, the Entomologist of the University of Nebraska, in Buenos Ayres During the Plague of 1875 Out West He—Inoculated Insects With Disease to Kill Others.

Argentina, South America, has suffered from a plague of locusts which have destroyed every ear of corn planted this year, and up to to-day not one shipload has left the port of Buenos Ayres, from which millions of bushels are annually exported. A cable announces that the government has asked Congress for the appropriation of \$1,000,000 for the purpose of destroying the pest.

Professor Lawrence Bruner, entomologist for the agricultural experiment station of the University of Nebraska, is now in Buenos Ayres under engagement with the Chamber of Commerce to investigate the locust migrations in South America. He will organize a system for the extermination of locusts and grasshoppers, and if he succeeds will receive a handsome bonus.

PROFESSOR BRUNER'S WORK.

For many years Professor Bruner has made a study of the destruction of farm pests, and during the plague in Nebraska succeeded in developing some wonderful results. In a recent interview on the subject he said:—

"To carry out the plan of extermination of this species of insect life it became necessary to have a large number of healthy locusts and grasshoppers. Farmers were required to send in a small number if they desired aid. They usually sent them in a tin box, with some green food to last the insects while on the road. In return we sent to them a supply of 'sick' bugs that could be used in communicating the disease to the bugs in the field. Full directions for using these inoculated bugs accompanied each package.

SPREADING THE DISEASE.

"We began at first by securing a supply of dead insects that had been killed by the fungus known as sporotrichum globuliferum. The 'starters' were received from Nebraska farmers and placed in our cages with healthy grasshoppers. If these healthy specimens were supplied with food and the conditions made to conform as nearly as possible to out of doors climate during the months of June and July, the height of the insect's working period. As a rule, no difficulty was experienced in securing the spread of this disease from the infected bugs to the healthy insects in the laboratory. During the early part of our experiment twice the infection seemed to temporarily lose its virulence, and then probably on account of lack of material to work on. The disease is a dry rot which causes the bodies of the locusts and similar species to decay. Its spread is very rapid and the result is fatal. It resembles in some respects leprosy in the human family.

"The behavior of the infected locusts and grasshoppers in the field is interesting. The disease begins to show that it has been communicated from the second to the fourth day after the infection has been placed in the field.

"The live bugs leaving their food plant, show

SIGNS OF UNEASINESS.

by moving rapidly and aimlessly about from spot to spot. In the course of another day the locust becomes sluggish and seeks protection from the sun's light and heat. The favorite place of shelter is beneath clouds and corn-stalks, or within some moist and shaded spot. From the sixth to the eighth day the first dead bugs are found enveloped in fungus resembling little wads of cotton. From the time the bugs first become sick they cease to sap the growing stalk or grain. The insect does not possess the instinct to discover the danger of an infected field, and few migrate, all dying in the locality in which they happen to be at the time they are inoculated."

In Nebraska the damage done by grasshoppers and locusts has been enormous. More than once every vestige of vegetation has been destroyed. The worst plague was in 1875, when not a bushel of grain was produced in the State. Ten days after they appeared the country was black with them, and two hours were sufficient for a field of corn or wheat, almost ripe, to be wiped out of existence. Railroad trains were delayed by the slimy mass of insects crushed beneath the wheels.

A similar condition of affairs confronts Professor Bruner in Argentina, but he feels confident that the methods used in Nebraska will be efficacious in South America.

DISTANCE LENDS ENCHANTMENT.

Gandy—Yes, I called the old son of a gun a liar and everything else I could think of. I told him if he ever opened his head to me I'd break every bone in his body.

Vandy—What did he say to that?

Sandy—I don't know yet. He won't get the letter till evening.

A LONG JOURNEY.

Cobble—It's wonderful how far a five-dollar bill will go?

Stone—What was you thinking of?

"The one I let you have. It must have traversed the country several times since then."

HIS NATURAL BENT.

Jimmy Dragjeans—Wot wuz yez intended for when ye wuz graduated from college, Case?

Casey de Kipper—I wuz so good at de dead languages dat me fader wanted me to be an undertaker.

DUPED.

Girlie—What made you think he loved you?

Maidie—He did.