THE PARKS OF LONDON.

DESCRIPTION OF BATTERSEA, VICTORIA AND FINSBURY.

A Trained Horticulturist's Observations in Recent Visits—Boundary Roads Flanked With Shrubs and Trees—Ample Space for Recreation Grounds—Thames Embankment and Its Pretty Little Gardens.

One day toward the close of June I took a run through three of the London parks, viz., Battersea, Victoria and Finsbury, says an American correspondent. These are wide apart, but having a friend with me quite at home in London, we were able to visit the three in one day. The drouth before spoken of still continued, so that the flower beds were suffering very much, notwithstanding the evident efforts being made to supply them with water artificially. In all the parks that I have seen a great deal of attention has been paid to creating a beautiful natural scene. There are good roads, masses of shrubs and trees and broad stretches of lawn, but little different from a well kept country residence.

The boundary roads and paths are nearly always heavily flanked with shrubs and trees and often with a border of herbaceous plants between the path and the shrubs. Along some of the wide drives shrubs have been used in clumps, but all set close enough together to form a continuous line of green.

These parks have lakes in their midst in which are usually several small islands, heavily wooded always, and proving a nice shelter for the many web-footed occupants of the water. Boats are for hire at these places, but when used their occupants are not permitted to land on the islands. The white flowers of the elderberry were conspicuous on many of these islands, as were those of a herbaceous plant of tall growth' the Heracleum giganteum, an umbelliferous plant, well suited to the situation. The two polygonums mentioned above were also here, flourishing finely in damp places near the water's edge; and here, too, either naturally or artificially planted, were lots of the colt's foot. Tussilago farfara, forming a green ground to the shrubs and trees. The matrimony vine, Lycium barbarum, seems well in place, forming a low dense mass of green. There were many clumps of the dog rose, Rose canina, and these were full of the single light pink flowers.

Battersea Park is a favorite place for women bicyclists. At the time of my visit

THE BROAD ROADWAYS

were throned with them. But few gentlemen riders were there, though plentiful enough elsewhere.

I have seen the weeping elm and weeping ash in much better shape in these parks and in other grounds here than I have seen them with us. They are grafted high, say 8 to 9 feet from the ground, so that as they grow they form a beautiful and cozy arbor. They are much used in all cemeteries. For the covering of buildings the common ivy is most used; next to it our Virginia creeper. The vine so universally used with us. Ampelopsis veitchii, is seen, but not to a great extent.

The bedding in these parks is looked on as the great feature for the latter months of summer. There are not too many of these beds. The greensward, leafy trees and natural scenes predominate. What beds there are add to the charm, without giving too artificial a look to the whole. I am afraid the plants used in many of them could not be turned to the same purpose in ours, our greater heat forbidding it, but I will mention what a few of the beds contained. There was a bed of double-flowered fuchsias, with yellow pansies between them, and having for an edging Coleus varschaffelti. Another had scarlet geraniums, with variegated corn interspersed, and edged with variegated-leaved geraniums. A third had for its base white pansies, with red-flowered fuchsias interspersed, and for an edging blue lobelia. Another was of Coleus verschaffelti, dotted with white fuchsias. Following this was one of tall fuchsias, carpeted with a dwarf, one called golden gem. A bed which I would like to see later had as a groundwork Plumbago capensis, with plants of Erythrina crista galli standing well above them; a row of Coleus verschaffelti was outside these, and for an edging was Echeveria secunda glauca. A bed of Mrs. Harrison Weir, a bronze geranium, was intermixed with Grevillea robusta, and edged with blue and lilac pansies and blue lobelias.

Most of these beds were in Victoria Park, which, I am told, contains 200 acres. There is a large conservatory, which is a great attraction in

THE WINTER SEASON

when outside flowers are at an end. At the present time the plants in bloom were of common kinds, but nicely arranged so that visitors found much to admire. Finsbury Park, which is on the north of London, is on quite elevated ground, affording fine views for miles around. The general features of it are the same as of the others. I saw here an avenue lined with fine trees of our Carolina poplar, and nicely the trees seemed to suit the situation. There was not the too rapid growth it makes at home, and it was more spreading. I have seen the tree in other places here, behaving in the same way. Perhaps too, in this cooler climate it will hold its foliage later in the season than it does with us.

In all these and other parks ample space is afforded for recreation grounds. There is the field for cricket and other games, and there is the place for children, and even one for young children under 12 years of age, where older ones are not permitted, and all the grounds are constantly filled with occupants. These parks seem to have been well wooded, as a rule, before they were used as they are, for they contain very large trees mostly of the English oak, which by the way makes a noble round-headed spreading tree. Shade trees about dwellings, as we have them are unknown here, nor are streets lined with trees as many are with us. Of course, though it adds to the beauty of a city, we plant to screen ourselves from the sun, which is not so essential here; though I am sure, were the heat of this summer to be the rule here, there would be a call for shade trees. The thermometer has ranged above 80 degrees for a day or two past, and it has been warm for weeks, using "warm" in its American sense.

Having an hour to spare on another day in London, I went out of my way a little to see the Thames embankment and its

PRETTY LITTLE GARDENS

near Waterloo bridge. Small as these gardens are, the most possible has been made of them. Trees and shrubs planted some years ago have grown up and now afford cool retreats and shade; and it was a pleasure to see little children getting the fresh air in such pretty places in the heart of London. And drinking fountains are there, as they are in all parts of England, with all conveniences for the public. Along the embankment drive are two rows of plane trees, one on each side. The trees are already of good size, and in time will be a conspicuous feature of the place.

Richmond Park, near Mortlake, is a place worth visiting. It is crown land, I understand, and is maintained by the Government. It was evening when I saw it—near 9 p.m., in fact—but here at this season it is not quite dark at any time of the night, and at 9 it is quite light. This park indeed was an immense tract of sward and trees. And some of the groves of trees were grand. Containing hundreds of trees each, with not a stick on the ground and no limbs lower than about 8 to 9 feet and a perfect sod of green grass under foot, they formed ideal places for picnic parties, for which purpose they are largely used. Deer roam about under them and over the broad fields of grass surrounding them. Some of the largest trees I have seen in England so far were at or near this park. On the road to it from Mortlake one passes Sheen House, occupied for a time by the Comte de Paris, after his exile from France, and about its grounds and in the vicinity are some exceedingly large trees. Some of the finest elms imaginable are there; some that I passed were easily 4 feet in diameter and were very high. In many cases such trees lined the road on each side, and in some instances, as the roads were of great length, they presented a grand appearance.

ADVENTURE WITH CONVICTS.

How a French Officer Saved the Lives of Himself and Sixteen Arab Convicts.

Off the coast of French Guiana, or Cayenne, there lies a group of three islands, called by the French the Iles du Salut, or Salvation Islands, which have long been used as a convict station. Here are sent convict Arabs from Algeria, negroes from Senegambia, Chinese and Annamites from Tonquin and Annam, and not infrequently anarchists from Paris. Lately the dispatches recorded an insurrection among these motley prisoners on these lonely islands, which was suppressed with a heavy hand.

It was not the first mutiny at this station. The islands are not regarded as a desirable place of residence, even by convicts. They are mere rocks, covered with so thin a coating of soil that no place of burial can be found for the convicts who die there. A little spot of earth is, indeed, set apart for the burial of officers or keepers who succumb to the climate; but when a convict dies his body is rowed out to sea and thrown into the water, to be quickly taken care of by the sharks.

Escape is practically impossible. Cayenne is twenty-seven miles away, and there is semaphoric communication with that point. A convict who attempts to get to shore in a boat or on a raft is perfectly sure to fall into the hands of the shore or sea patrol, always on the watch.

Some years ago, according to a report made by Monsieur Bonnetain, a French administrator at Cayenne, a warden of the station at the Iles du Salut, who happened to be an old sailor, was sent from the mainland to the islands in a small sailing vessel, the crew of which consisted of sixteen Arab convicts. As second in command, the warden had with him a French convict who had reached the grade of "trusty," and in whom he had complete confidence.

The Arabs were docile enough, but on the way the French "trusty" excited them to mutiny. At a signal from him they rushed upon the warden, bound him and tied him fast to the rail.

They would undoubtedly have killed him but for the fear that they would be recaptured, and that if they had added the crime of murder to their mutiny they would all be hanged.

They made the best of their way toward the Brazilian shores, but a storm came up and blew them in the opposite, or northerly, direction. The storm increased, and the convicts, not one of whom had any knowledge of navigation, began to fear for their lives.

A day and a night had passed, and they were out of food. In their distress the Arabs liberated the warden. They were humble enough now, and were willing that he should take them anywhere.

"That remains to be seen," said the warden. "I think it would serve you all right if I let you go to your death."

"But how about yourself?"

"I am willing to go, too!"

The Arabs were at their wits' end. They begged the warden to save them.

"Will you do, then, just what I tell you!" he asked the Arabs.

"We will!"

"Very well, then; I shall spare your lives,—all you Arabs,—but this Frenchman here I condemn to a deserved death. Throw him overboard!"

The Arabs obeyed, and the French betrayer of the warden went over the rail to his death. The warden then gave directions which saved the boat, and brought it into the harbor of Demerara, whence all on board were taken to Cayenne.

The warden found the Arabs docile to the end, as he knew they would be after the example made of the Frenchman. But his confidence once lost in the trusted man, he had felt certain that as soon as the English coast was approached the man would lead a new mutiny, which probably would result in the warden's death.

THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe. Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

CANADA.

Scarlet fever is becoming prevalent in Winnipeg.

The Mount Hamilton Incline Railway is open for traffic.

Shipments of Ontario cattle are arriving in the Northwest.

The C. P. R. is restoring its officials' wages to the former rate.

The Ottawa river has risen several inches in consequence of the recent rains.

The Quebec Legislature will probably be called together for the end of October.

The late Mr. Warden King of Montreal left several bequests to Presbyterian Church schemes.

A canal scheme along the watercourses from the head of Lake Winnipeg to Hudson Bay is being promoted.

The contract for the mason work for the Burlington bridge at Hamilton has been awarded to Mr. George F. Webb.

Mr. J. M. Gibson, Provincial Secretary, has decided to hold an open investigation into the management of the Central prison at Toronto.

Mr. A. O. Jeffery of London was elected High Chief Ranger of the Subsidiary High Court of the Ancient Order of Foresters, meeting at Guelph.

Mr. J. O. Labodie, one of the oldest and best known notaries in the Province of Quebec, is reported from Montreal to have mysteriously disappeared.

Canadian Pacific railway receipts for the seven months ended July 31st show a gain in net profits over those of the same period last year of $336,352.

Mrs. Kennedy of South London is anxious about her husband, who, she fears, is the man reported to have been killed by falling off a Manitoba harvest excursion train.

According to the report of the Government Engineer, Mr. Schreiber, satisfactory progress is being made on both the Peterborough and Balsam lake sections of the Trent Valley canal.

Professor John Fletcher, M. A., of Queen's College, Kingston, has been appointed to the professorship of Latin in University College, Toronto, and Mr. F. T. Swale, M. A., Ph. D., has been appointed lecturer in chemistry.

Governor Hastings, of Pennsylvania, who was in Montreal the other day, expressed the opinion that Holmes, the alleged murderer, ought to be tried in Canada, where the methods of administering justice are more simple and direct than in the United States.

It is understood that Post-Office Inspector Sweetnam, on behalf of the Government, has made offers to divide every dollar of the amount recovered pro rata among the losers by the mail robbery at Kingston last November. This division would mean to the losers about fifty cents on the dollar.

At last night's meeting of the City Council of Hamilton, a letter was read from the secretary of the Toronto, Hamilton, and Buffalo Railway Company, asking the city to grant a bonus of $250,000 for a double track line between Hamilton and Toronto. The letter was referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Wm. Harty, Commissioner of Public Works, when interviewed last Saturday by a Kingston deputation regarding Sunday street cars, suggested that deputations from every city in the province meet and arrange a date on which to wait on the Ontario Government, and thus have the matter discussed from a general standpoint.

Mr. Harrison Watson, curator of the Canadian section of the Imperial Institute, London, has arrived in Montreal by the Allan liner Parisian. Mr. Watson's object in visiting Canada is to secure better exhibits of Canadian products at the institute than at present. Mr. Watson says that during the twenty-six months the institute has been open 1,100,000 persons have visited it.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Mr. John Morley is said to be writing a history of the present century.

Queen Victoria and Princess Beatrice have gone to Balmoral from Osborne.

Five men were drowned off the east coast of England by the upsetting of a yawl.

The Duke of York has a valuable collection of postage stamps, which he is desirous of disposing of.

The Lancet says there was nothing to prove cholera in the case of the man who died at Wandsworth, a suburb of London.

The marriage of President Sir Charles Rivers-Wilson of the Grand Trunk and Hon. Violet Mostyn is announced to take place in November.

A Berlin journal revives the rumor that Princess Maud of Wales will be betrothed to Prince Christian of Denmark, her first cousin.

Four thousand additional labourers have joined in the Dundee (Scotland) mill-worker's strike. It is estimated that fully 30,000 persons are now idle because of this strike.

A British order-in-Council has been passed, prohibiting the catching of seals by British ships within such parts of the seas to which the Seal Fisheries Act of 1895 applies. This order will affect a zone of ten marine miles on all Russian coasts of the Behring Sea.

The annual report of the Registrar General on the vital statistics of Ireland estimates the population to be 4,600,599. The marriage rate shows a slight increase on the annual average for the last ten years; the death rate, a slight increase; and the birth rate, a small decline.

UNITED STATES.

The Montana Methodist Conference has decided to admit women as members on the same footing as men.

Pittsburg has been selected as the place of meeting of the next triennial encampment of Knights Templar.

The report of the United States Board of Engineers on the Chicago drainage canal reveals that it was constructed without the permission of Congress.

The University of California has been bequeathed $400,000 by Mr. J. C. Wilderming, for the purpose of establishing a school to teach boys trades by which they can earn a living.

Henry D. Fitzgerald, a well-known attorney, and for many years United States Commissioner, was kidnapped at Buffalo last Saturday night and held until he paid $60 for his liberty.

An electric railway, at an estimated cost of $600,000, may probably be built between Detroit and Port Huron. The projected road will run through a territory not tributary to the Grand Trunk Railway.

The United States Treasury Department has decided that materials used in the construction of the new suspension bridge at Niagara Falls up to the United States Shore may be imported from Canada free of duty.

GENERAL.

Governor Robinson of West Australia has resigned.

Eight women were burned to death in a fire in the convent of Riberone, Italy.

The Duke of Orleans has abandoned all efforts to maintain his claim to the throne of France.

A German torpedo boat capsized in the North sea on Wednesday, and thirteen persons were drowned.

The Commercial Bank shareholders of Newfoundland have been called upon to pay their reserve liability of $200 per share.

The Armenian monastery of St. John was attacked by armed brigands, who brutally maltreated the pilgrims assembled there.

The Presidents of the Hayti and San Domingo Islands have asked for Papal mediation to regulate the delimitations of those two countries.

Dr. Schnurdercher, of Prague, and two Italian guides, while ascending Mount Blanc a few days ago, were killed by falling over a precipice.

The Porte has complained to France and Russia of England's attitude on the Armenian question. No encouragement was given to the complaint.

The United States Consul at Beyrout has been instructed to proceed to Tarsus in order to open an enquiry into the attack recently made upon the American College there.

A despatch from Hong-Kong states that the investigation of the Ku-Cheng commission is making satisfactory progress. Ten Vegetarians have already been convicted, and others are being tried.

Jules Simon's real family name is Suisse, which in France is an equivalent for concierge. When his first book came out Victor Cousin advised him to drop it, as no man could hope for fame with such a name.

A resolution has been presented by the municipality of Panama, asking the other municipalities of Colombia to join in a petition to the Government to recognize the Cuban patriots as belligerents.

The correspondent of the London Pall Mall Gazette at Shanghai telegraphs that, according to advices received there from Cheng-Tu, four of the ringleaders of the recent massacre of missionaries have been executed.

Capt. Quick, of the British steamer Stuart, claims that he was driven from a guano island in the South Pacific ocean by the Chilian ironclad warship Esmeralda. The reason assigned was that Peru owned the island until a short time ago, when it was seized for a war debt owed to Chili.

How little the population of France moves about is shown by the last census. Out of 38 million inhabitants, 21 million live in the town or village in which they were born, and 30½ millions have not moved out of their native departments. Only a million and a half have emigrated to France from colonies or foreign countries.

Prof. Richet publishes some figures of mortality from diphtheria in the Revue Scientifique, which seems to show that either the disease has this year taken a milder form, or else Dr. Roux's serum treatment is effective. The deaths in 1884 in Paris hospitals were 1,400; from 1887 to 1891 they were from 900 to 960 a year; from 1892 to 1894 they averaged 733; in 1895 they were 239.

Corns as Weather Prophets.

"Do you know that the best weather predictor in the world," says a physician "is a well-developed hard corn on any one of the principal toes?" I have one on the third toe of my right foot that informs me of a coming change in the weather far more reliably than the signal service man with all his wealth of scientific instruments. Of course, I keep the corn well pared, but that doesn't make a particle of difference with the merit of it as a prognosticator. Just about twenty-four hours before a change in the weather the corn begins its predictions by a sharp pain that I can only liken to a redhot needle being thrust into the joint of the toe. The pain is intermittent, and for this I am thankful, for if it should pain without pause it would drive me daft. I can assign no cause for the phenomenon, nor have I ever been able to get a reason from the hundreds of doctors I know, many of whom are afflicted the same as myself. A great many of my patients are possessed of a similar infallible barometer, and many of them have come to me for relief. But the only relief I can suggest is to remove to a country where the weather never changes."

Bad Wreck.

Is Jorkins a pretty fair yachtsman?

No. He struck a snag early in the season and has staid there ever since.

So? That's too bad!

Yes; he's stuck on himself.

Not the Wires.

Broker—What's the matter with that telephone? Are the wires crossed?

Clerk—No, I guess the "Central" girl has been crossed.

HOW HE WON THEM.

Dean Church's Life Among the Poor Villagers of Whatley.

"He were such a gentleman, and he cared for us so," was the phrase, by which an old woman of Whatley described the considerateness and courtesy of her rector, who was subsequently Dean Church of St. Paul's cathedral.

Whatley was a village of two hundred people, wholly agricultural. The villagers were suspicious of strangers, and lived almost exclusively within the range of their own little occupations and interests and feuds. In the dean's "Life and Letters" the story is told of how he won the love and confidence of this suspicious, self-absorbed community.

His earliest efforts were directed toward the parish school and the Sunday-school, and in the winter to the night-school, where he gathered the men and elder lads for instruction. Out of school hours, he instituted paper chases for the boys, and long country walks for the elder children in summer, when he encouraged them to search for wild flowers to be looked at afterward with his microscope.

The men and women were won by a sympathy which entered into the homely details of their every-day life—their work; their children, their gardens, and even their pigs.

The hesitating welcome which greeted him as a stranger passed into affectionate confidence. The old, the sick and the dying eagerly looked for his visits. Again and again he would be roused at night, by the sound of pebbles thrown up against his window, which summoned him in haste to some case of sudden illness. The English peasant, when sick, dread the "turn of the night," and the rector was often asked to come and sit by the bedside of a sick person, and watch with him till that dreadful hour had passed.

The roughest and most turbulent men of the village respected him, and even feared him, though he was the gentlest of persons.

"A man durstn't any longer beat his wife else the parson will be down on him," was a common saying among the rough laborers of Whatley.

In a drunken brawl it was the parson who was sent for to part the combatants. One night, very late, he was sent for to stop a fight between two men, very drunk and very quarrelsome. The rector laid hold of the more dangerous of the two and walked him up and down the road until the man, sobered and quited, turned and shook the parson's hand, saying:

"Well, sir, I think now I'll go to bed."

It was just so at Oxford while he was a tutor of Oriel. Says Canon Scott Holland: "Men of every type and party, whatever their quarrels or differences, somehow always accepted 'Church of Oriel.' Round every other name there was hot debate, attack and defence, challenge and counter-challenge. But no one ever discussed the worth or the authority of this name; it was an established matter, about which there was no diversity of opinion." Such men exemplify Christianity and win honors for the Master they serve.

PEARLS OF TRUTH

Nature is motion's mother.—Jonson.

What a power there is in innocence.—Moore.

Good nature is the beauty of the mind.—Hanway.

Strong reasons make strong actions.—Shakespeare.

Dreams are rudiments of the great state to come.—Bailey.

That life is long which answers life's great end.—Young.

He who undervalues himself is justly undervalued by others.—Hazlitt.

Patience is the support of weakness; impatience is the ruin of strength.—Colton.

All things are artificial, for nature is the art of God.—Sir Thomas Browne.

By the very constitution of our nature moral evil is its own curse.—Chalmers.

Good humor is one of the best articles of dress one can wear in society.—Thackeray.

Come and take a choice of all my library, and so beguile thy sorrows.—Shakespeare.

Where love is there is no labor; and if there be labor, that labor is loved.—Austin.

When true friends meet in adverse hour, tis like a sunbeam through a shower.—Scott.

All presentiments that are confirmed by events give a man a higher idea of himself.—Goethe.

Malice and hatred are very fretting, and apt to make our minds sore and uneasy.—Tillottson.

Scorn no man's love though of a mean degree; love is a present for a mighty king.—Herbert.

How little do they see what is who frame their hasty judgment upon that which seems.—Southey.

Philosophy, when superficially studied, excites doubt; when thoroughly explored, it dispels it.—Bacon.

A word unspoken is like the word in the scabbard, thine; if vented, thy sword is in another's hand.—Quarles.

Convict Farming Pays.

The managers of the Mississippi convict farm announce that one year's experience with it has been thoroughly satisfactory, and it will turn into the State Treasury some $50,000 net over all expenses. This amount would have been twice as large if the farm had been large enough to give employment to all the convicts. Mississippi abandoned the system of working out of convicts, so general in the South, last year, and purchased a farm of 10,000 acres, the convicts furnishing the labor. The experiment has been a success in all respects. The convicts are better treated, the farm produces a handsome revenue, and there is no objection from the people, as the production of cotton by convict labor does not affect free labor unfavorably in any way. Authority will be asked from the Legislature for the purchase of another farm.