

# LATE BRITISH NEWS.

### Italian Workmen on the Forth Bridge—Lady de Walden's Thank-Offering—Died in Her 101st Year.

### New Forts for the Thames—London Fire Statistics—A Novel Steeple-chase, etc., etc.

More than 2,000 Italian workmen were employed on the Forth Bridge.

The latest automatic machine in England tells your fortune when you have dropped a penny in the slot.

Joseph Sutherland, a centenarian, who served as a "powder monkey" in the British fleet under Nelson, has died at Sittingbourne.

An Englishman claims to have discovered a means by which the juice of grapes or apples can be preserved unfermented for so long as seven years.

The accounts of the expenditures in defence of the Irish members before the Commission have been made up and show a total of about \$182,000.

Gayarre, the great tenor, who died recently, left an estate of \$800,000. His nightly salary for some time had been \$1400, and he lived very modestly.

An English railroad company is selling its old cars at \$25 apiece, and it is alleged that they are being purchased for conversion into cottages, bathing machines, and various other small habitations.

At a recent ball in London the electric light was arranged to vary in color, being alternately red, blue, green and yellow. The ladies didn't like it, as it ruined in alternation the effect of all their costumes.

A pointer as to Government telegraph. From the *St. James's Gazette*: "One Londoner in a hurry to communicate with another does not send a telegram or run to the telephone; he simply jumps into a cab."

Lady Howard de Walden has expressed her intention of endowing, at a cost of £10,000 or £12,000, a ward at the West Kent Hospital, at Maidstone, as a thank-offering for her recent recovery from a serious illness.

A postal card was recently delivered in England fifteen years after it had been posted, having been found at the bottom of a letter box, where it had doubtless lain unnoticed ever since it was first dropped in.

Arabella Goddard, once a famous pianist, has recently been discovered in extreme poverty in London, and a benefit concert for her has realized \$2,500, which, with other contributions, makes a total of \$6,000.

Mrs. Ann Leek of Kiplin, Yorkshire, has died in her 101st year. She was married in 1809, and had lived in the same house ninety nine years. There is another Mrs. Leek living in the neighborhood who has attained the same age.

An Englishman has invented a means of utilizing the principle of stilts with wheels. The wheels are fastened to the feet as stilts are, and each acts as a sort of independent bicycle. They go very fast when one has learned how to walk on them.

It has been discovered that with the new English magazine rifle the first shot almost always goes wide, and it is alleged that the soldiers believe that it will not shoot well unless the firer breathes sharply down the barrel three or four times before using it.

The military defences of the Thames, which have been in such a poor condition that there was not a single gun in the Medway capable of preventing the passage of a large ironclad, are to be strengthened immediately by the erection of new forts and the increase in the armament of those existing.

The Guinness Trust, representing Sir Edward Guinness, has selected several sites in London for the erection of dwellings for the working classes, which are to differ from the famous Peabody houses in that they will be let only to the poorest class of laborers, and that the rent will be almost nominal.

The trustees of the British Museum have made an order allowing the delivery of telegrams to readers there, and they are being denounced for it, on the ground that there is a growing tendency to turn the museum into a free club. Letters cannot be delivered to readers there yet, however.

Winter & Co., coal merchants of Swanscombe, England, have sued the owner of a menagerie for \$250, the value of a horse alleged to have died from fright at the sight of one of the menagerie elephants. The horse was being driven along the road, when it saw the elephant; it gave one spring into the air and dropped dead.

London Fire Department statistics show that, although theatre fires have increased greatly in number, they are far less damaging than formerly, owing to the improvements in the apparatus for suppressing them. The same statistics show that the death rate from fires in London has fallen from 238 in 1887 to 19 in 1899. This is also laid to the improved apparatus.

The Duke of Cambridge recently, examining an American revolver during a visit to the squadron of evolution, declared that it seemed the finest he had seen, and that he thought the English navy should adopt it, there being great complaint about the kind at present used in that navy. The Russians are ahead of all other European nations in their revolvers, it being a favorite weapon aboard their ships.

The question of how to get clothes washed is agitating the British matron. It is declared that the laundries are expensive and do poor work, and it is suggested that "penitential laundries" be established where the work shall be done by women convicted of petty offences. The daily papers have started a regular department for letters upon the subject, and head it "Washingiana."

English thieves are using a contrivance looking like an ordinary walking stick, but which is so arranged that by pressing a spring at the handle the ferrule will spread apart and form a sort of spring clip that will take hold of anything that is within reach. The thing is called "the Continental lifting stick," and is used to take goods from behind counters when the shopman's back is turned.

The North Pole may at length be reached, and all on account of a pair of trousers—oil-skin ones—which were on board the ill-fated *Jeannette*. The garment is said to have been found on the coast of Greenland, showing that on their journey from the Pacific

the Atlantic the breeches must have passed the Pole, carried that way by a current. Dr. Nansen, who discovered this fact, thinks that it is possible to make the same route.

Ten Englishmen of sporting blood recently had a steeplechase by moonlight over the Thorne Hill Meadows, near Melton Mowbray. They turned out in night shirts, according to the ancient rules of such contests and rode over a course which was indicated by lamps. A hundred carriages held the spectators of the event. Half of the racers drew out before the end, but five rode it out and Lieut. Burnaby of the Royal Horse Guards came in ahead, with Count Zborowski a good second.

The Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language prints statistics supplied by the Commissioners of National Education, showing the progress of the study of Irish in the national schools. Irish is taught in forty-five national schools, and the number of pupils who passed has risen from twelve in 1881 to over five hundred in 1889. With reference to intermediate education the Council have also to report highly satisfactory progress. The results of the recent examinations show that the number of boys who passed in Irish amounted to 273, while in 1883 it was under fifty.

The former Bishop of Durham, Dr. Lightfoot, when the interior of the Bishop's chapel at Auckland Castle was being renovated, was asked by the artist of the new windows what sort of faces he preferred for the representations of Bishops and monks among the figures. He gave the artist a number of photographs of his associates in Church work, saying that those were the faces that he liked best to see around him. The artist used the faces in the figures, and the result is that Bishop Westcott, who has just been appointed to succeed Dr. Lightfoot, finds himself confronted in his own chapel with a portrait of himself arrayed in a gorgeous cope.

The following portion of a private letter from Dr. Schliemann has been made public at Berlin: "I intend at the beginning of March, in company with Dr. Dropfelin, to take up again my excavations in Troy energetically, and continue them for at least two years. I shall have two railways, which will render the removal of the rubbish more easy. I shall first lay bare the exterior of the walls, as well as the roads which lead from the three gates to the lower town; then I shall gradually remove the two heaps of earth which have remained in the middle of the burned city, beginning at the Troy. I have had very many wooden houses built at Troy, because in spring and summer I expect very many visitors, among them being some of the most learned and celebrated men of science."

### Getting Out of the Wet.

"Well, Bismarck is sensible."

"Think so?"

"Certainly. But he ought to have come in out of the reign when it began."

### A Mean Husband's Revenge.

Mrs. De Pride (anxious that her daughter shall make a rich match)—"I wonder why Mr. Richfellow doesn't come to see our daughter any more."

Mr. De Pride—"I don't know. The last time he was here he borrowed my clock-work phonograph to have some music played into it. He brought it back to my office the next morning, saying that the musician was sick or something, and that's the last I've seen of him."

"Was the phonograph empty?"

"Um! now I think of it, I believe it did have in it your reception of me when I came home late the night before. Maybe he's changed his mind about marrying."

### A Society Mystery.

Mrs. De Fashion—"So Clara Pretty has married Mr. Noble. Why, he's as poor as a church mouse."

Mrs. De Style—"No prospects either."

Mrs. Hignup—"No; and no family."

Mrs. Wayup—"What on earth could she have married him for?"

Mrs. Tiptop—"It's the greatest mystery."

Mrs. Topnotch—"Yes, everybody in society is puzzled over it, but it seems impossible to solve the problem."

Mr. Noble (in parlor car of fast express train)—"My darling, why did you marry me?"

The Bride—"Because I love you."

Just as Loving and Sentimental as Ever.

"I don't think Jones has been indulging too much," said his kindly believing spouse, "but still I thought it rather odd of him that he should wrench the knocker off the front door and bring it up to me as I sat in bed, saying that he'd gathered another rose for me out of the garden. Poor, dear, simple boy; he's just as loving and sentimental as ever he was."

### The Seasons.

Little Girl—"Mamma, is this winter?"

Wise Mother—"Dear me, will you never learn to know the seasons? Now remember. When it is so hot one day you can't breathe, and so wet and chilly the next that you can't go out, it's summer; when it suddenly gets so cold that everybody shivers, and ice and snow appear, it's autumn; when it becomes warm and balmy, and the birds sing, and grass gets green, and trees begin to bud, it's winter; when the winds start up and cyclones sweep over the country, and blizzards carry rivers freeze, and the snow piles up three feet high, it's spring."

### The Only Girls He Ever Loved.

A lady who was recently visiting the rooms of a gay bachelor of this city was struck by the decoration over his sitting-room mantel. A large frame was filled with photographs of girls and women, most of them pretty and all of them members of respectable society. At the bottom of each picture was pasted a newspaper clipping.

"Why, Mr. Brown, what do they mean?" asked the astonished lady. "Who are they and why have they those scraps pasted on them?"

"They are pictures of the only girls I ever loved, and those clippings are there marriage notices." An original scheme, surely.

### On the Street.

"Well, did he give you a pointer?"

"He said it was, but I lost so much money on the spec that I half believe it was a red herring."

### Ordering a Bride.

A Greek merchant of Alexandria, in Egypt, who made a great deal of money, unable to return personally to his country, but intent upon choosing a Grecian maiden for his wife, writes to his correspondent in Corinth, at the bottom of his usual business letter: "Finally, I request you to remit me by returning steamer, a young lady who might feel inclined to be my wife. She need not be in possession of any money, with which I am sufficiently blessed; but a good reputation of the age of 24 or 25, a respectable family, good looks, health and temper and middle-sized figure. If the lady will bring the inclosed note with your kindly acceptance, you may feel assured that I will honor the same and make the bearer my wife."

Although somewhat astonished at this singular order of his Alexandria correspondent, the merchant at Corinth, a good business man, thought best to fill it like any other received from so reliable a customer and to send the merchandise demanded at short notice. Having found a lady possessing the required qualities and willing to transmit with the accepted check on her unknown countryman her hand and heart, the Corinthian took her aboard the next steamer going to the country of the Pharaohs. At the same time he notified his friend by telegraph of the precious shipment.

As soon as the boat anchored in the harbor of Alexandria the matrimonious Greek boarded it, to hear himself called by name and see a pretty young damsel stepping up to him, saying: "I have a check signed by you and hope you will duly honor it." "Never yet a note of mine has gone to protest," replied the blushing groom, "and I shall not permit this to happen to the one you hold. I shall be happy if, in compensation, you will honor me with your hand."

A fortnight later the note was redeemed and the payer a happy husband.

### Only said in Fun.

"You see," commended the dog fancier, as he muzzled the animals previous to docking them, "it's heads I win, tails you lose."

A young man says a "bridge of sighs" is generally found on the road to matrimony. Sometimes a young man, while traveling on that road, finds himself asking if that bridge isn't a cantilever.—*Norristown Herald*.

With the coming season the milkmen will have their spring styles of milk, as usual.

"Book agent. 'Sir, I have here a book.' Intended victim. 'Sir, I have here a gun.' Exit, book agent.—*Chicago Journal*.

"I don't want the earth," he remarked slowly and looking her squarely in the eye, "but I wouldn't mind having a fair portion of it." And she understood he meant her the first time.

She. "Love is an evergreen tree." He. "Quaint, but—ah! well, my love is yew."—*Binghamton Leader*.

Columbus was a great man and did discover America, but he no doubt had as hard a time to discover the pocket in his wife's dress as anybody else.

In Lent, it is said, New York eats three million three hundred and sixty thousand eggs a day. Something to cackle about, is it not?

### The "Iron Horse" in Persia.

Railroads in Persia have not yet assumed either a present or an immediately prospective magnitude great enough to make of vast financial consequence the reported privileges granted for five years to Russian capitalists for their construction. The experience of the contractors for the first short railroad in that country, built not many years ago, must have been a queer one, since to suit the Shah, as was reported, the work was begun at the wrong end, or the one furthest away from the place to which the principal materials had to be brought. Since then the locomotive has become a more familiar object; but Persia can hardly yet be the most promising field imaginable for railroad enterprise. The political significance of the present concessions is noteworthy as showing the continued satisfaction of Persia with Russian means and influences. The Shah is between two fires, or at least finds England and Russia rivals in pulling at him for privileges on the one hand and the other. It must be confessed that this position does not appear to disturb his personal enjoyment of life; indeed, his policy seems to be the simple one of playing one off against the other.

On the southern coast, particularly on the Persian Gulf, England receives the commercial concessions; on the northern frontier, particularly on the Caspian Sea, Russia makes her gains. And she probably looks forward to uniting her steam lines with those of Persia and controlling both.

### Frederick's Mausoleum.

The mausoleum of the Emperor Frederick, next to the Friedenskirche in Potsdam, is completed externally with the exception of the copper roof of the cupola. In the interior, which is warmed, the stone masons sculptors are busily at work. The decorations of the interior are, our correspondent telegraphs, very rich, and carried out entirely in light gray Silesian sandstone. The sober color of this building material is only interrupted by the polished dark green syenite pillars. As a finish to the arch which spans the opening of the altar niche, a beautifully formed escutcheon has been chosen, over which the imperial eagle soars without outspread wings. This is flanked on both sides by figures of angels holding religious symbols in their hands. The spandrels of the upper gallery are adorned with cherubs. Within the last few days the Emperor's consent has been given to the carrying out of the mosaic in the cupola and on the ceiling of the altar space. The designs for the mosaics were worked out by Prof. Ewald, after early Christian works. The cupola is to receive figures of angels on a gold ground between palms.

### Injunctions.

"But, my dear madam, because your husband has avowed his intention of continuing, as you say, to be a base-ball crank next season, I see no reasonable grounds for divorce."

"You don't? Well, then, put an injunction of two onto him—big ones as you can get—for he's awfully slippery. I'm told they're using those with extraivity on the players; why not on the cranker?"

### DIVORCE IN CANADA.

#### A CANDID AMERICAN EXPRESSES HIS VIEWS OF OUR LAW.

##### Marriage is No Plaything to Be Cast Off at Will—Divorce Almost Unknown.

An American gentleman who has been in Ottawa for some weeks writes home to his local journal as follows:—"Canadians look upon matrimony as a sacred institution, and justly consider it the corner stone of society, frowning down all attempts to make its dissolution an easy matter. At present it costs several hundred dollars and the loss of the moral character of one or both parties to procure a divorce. In consequence few divorces are asked, fewer granted. The power to grant divorces rests entirely with the Senate of Canada, and the proceeding is a long and costly one. For six months prior to the opening of the session, at which the case is to come up for investigation, notice of the application, including the plea, has to be given in the official gazette and the local papers where the parties reside. In this way the affair is made public, and the comments are not such as would be likely to induce others to make their private differences the subject of public discussion. As to the cause considered sufficient for the procuring of a divorce, there is but one, and that is the Biblical cause contained in St. Matthew xix, 9. Some months ago there was a movement set on foot to make habitual drunkenness a sufficient cause, but it was so vigorously opposed that it died a natural death. When persons entered into the marriage contract it is 'for better or for worse,' the sufferer has no cause of complaint. Consequently a Canadian husband can get as drunk as a lord and eject his wife, like an Irish tenant, with more severity than consideration, and she can have no redress except in a decree of separation and alimony; but through it all she has to remain his wife.

##### "UNTIL DEATH DO THEM PART."

Some Canadians think to overcome this stringent law by emigrating for a time to Chicago, and purchasing what is called in Canada "a 50-cent decree." The Canadian courts do not recognize such decrees, however, and the party getting married under one of them is liable to arrest and imprisonment, should he or she return to Canada. A noted legal gentleman of this city, who is authority on divorce matters, delivered a lecture before the Ottawa Legal and Literary Society some weeks ago, during which he said divorces granted in the United States to parties married in Canada, are illegal in Canada, except where the parties have become bona fide residents of the States, and the divorce is granted for the cause recognized as sufficient in this country. All others are null and void.

This is the law regarding divorce, and so stringent, exposing and expensive is it, that few have the courage to seek redress for their real or fancied wrongs under its authority, and of these few a large proportion get only the exposure and expense without the redress. But Canadians are thoroughly satisfied with the law and will not tolerate any infringement of it either among the high or low. Political prominence, like money, often covers a multitude of sins, but neither the one nor the other can excuse any violation of the divorce law. As an instance of this, there was a certain minister of the crown for Canada, married last summer to a Canadian lady, who had gone to Chicago and procured a divorce from her husband for causes not recognized by the laws of Canada. At the time there was much speculation, both in Canada and the United States, as to the reception they would get at the capital during the present season. Some thought that the gentleman's position would over-ride his errors, but recent events have proven the contrary. As a minister of the crown he is invited to "political repasts," but the lady is omitted. Marriage is undoubtedly the great question of a woman's existence, and Canadian women are determined to preserve it inviolate.

##### PRETTY DEAR FUN.

At present there is a very peculiar case before the Senate, and one which fully illustrates the reverence with which Canadians look upon marriage. Some five years ago a party of young people wanted to have some fun and so bethought themselves of a "mock marriage." A young lady and gentleman consented to go through the ceremony, which they did, and now, after five years, when one of them wants to marry someone else, they find to their dismay that the mockery was a binding affair and that neither can get married unless the Senate grants them a bill of divorce. In any event their fun is going to cost them pretty dearly.

Marriage in Canada, like fire, is not to be played with. Fire if kept in the stove is a very useful, cheerful and necessary thing in a house, but if you begin to throw it around for fun it is very apt to set the house on fire. And so it is with marriage. It is a very serious thing, and Canadians look upon it in its most serious aspect. This being the case they have no reason to complain of the law, for all who think seriously before they act, are not very apt to have any after regrets. A loose divorce law makes work for itself and money for the lawyers. How many people rush into the marriage state without considering the seriousness of the step, but fully determined, if all is not well, to get divorced, and following the good old motto, "try again." But such a course cannot be pursued in Canada. When young Canadians make up their minds to marry, they know full well that it is, in all probability, their

##### FIRST, LAST AND ONLY CHANCE

of happiness, and in consequence, they consider deeply and think seriously before taking the step that is to make them happy or miserable for the rest of their days.

The only real objection ever taken to the Canadian divorce law, is that it is too expensive. A poor man cannot afford it, and it is practically a luxury indulged in by only the wealthy. But this objection does not amount to anything, when one considers the source whence arises the majority of divorce suits. When parties enter into the marriage contract with that mutual affection which should always be, and which in the poor man's case can be the only consideration, they are not apt to regret it or seek a separation after a few years or months. Among the wealthy an ambitious maid often marries for a fortune, or a shabby merchant goes for an heiress to prop up his tottering business. These are, as a rule, the persons who seek divorce, and it is a well advised statement that some man pay for it, at least once in the history of Canada. But there is another source for making

ing it expensive, and that is that the expense of Canadian legislation on the subject is so much to annul the marriage contract as to preserve it inviolate.

On the whole, "Divorce in Canada" is more than a name and he is said to be in the hands of anything more. In short, it may be concluded that the relationship between husband and wife in Canada is permanent, and "until death do them part."

### AT TEL-EL-KEBIR

#### How the Highlanders Behaved on the Memorable Field.

The first man up among them was a young soldier, Donald Cameron by name, who had rushed to the front fighting the Egyptians, till a bullet through the head finished him and he tumbled back dead into the trench. It was full of Highlanders trying to clamber up the steep face, and slipping back again, for there was no foothold. I tried in vain three times, and at last, calling to my comrades, "For God's sake, Finlay, give me a leg up!" I succeeded in mounting. Once on the summit, such was my state of excitement, I was for a moment bewildered, and scarcely knew what to do—the enemy swarmed around us like bees, all in white with red feathers, some brown-faced, some black-faced, and all showing their infernal teeth. I plunged my bayonet into one of them; a man falling toward me, one of them fell him and me back into the trench, and I fell together on top of one of my comrades, but I was soon again on the further bank, assisted up by one of my mates, and took part in the charge of the regiment onward toward the second trench.

Cheering vigorously and clearing our way with the bayonet, we were soon to and across that obstacle. Just as I got on my feet, after clambering out of the trench, I was felled by a blow across the legs from the clubbed rifle of an Egyptian, and as I fell saw the cold steel coming at me; but my comrades saved me, and in a moment I was up again, too excited to feel any pain. Suddenly there were shouts of "Retire! retire!"—the word ran along the ragged front, causing an immediate and general check, and indeed a retirement of the part of many who thought they were obeying a command. Fortunately, a sergeant officer in the nick of time galloped forward shouting, "No retirement, men! Come on! come on!" There was a general rally, and then forward we went again.

Those cries of "Retire" had been treacherously raised by a couple of "Glasgow Irishmen," who had somehow evaded the precautions that were in force since the days of Fenianism to prevent the enlistment of disloyal characters. They had been proved cowards or something worse on occasions when the regiment was before Kafr Dower, and in virtue of instructions coming through the Captain, the non-commissioned officers of the company appointed a Sergeant and a Corporal to watch the conduct of these two men in the battle. They were to use their own discretion, as if that step became necessary to put the summary to death. When the treacherous dogs raised their shout of "Retire," the non-commissioned officers appointed to watch them promptly did their duty. I saw one—kill one of them with a thrust of his sword bayonet, and also saw Corporal—fire at the other, who fell dead, but whether he was killed by the Corporal's bullet or by one of the enemy I cannot undertake to say. The regiment was unanimous that both richly deserved to die, in which conviction every honest soldier will concur.—*Arthur Palmer, late Sergeant Seventy-ninth Highlanders, the Nineteenth Century.*

### 'Tis Better to Laugh.

The sunniest skies are the fairest,  
The happiest hours are best,  
Of all of life's blessings the rarest  
Are pictures of pleasure and rest.  
Though Fate is our wishes denying,  
Let each bear his part like a man,  
Nor darken the world with our sighing,  
'Tis better to laugh when we can.

Each heart has its burden of sorrow,  
Each soul has its shadows profound;  
This sunshine we're yearning to borrow  
From those who may gather around.  
Then let us wear faces of pleasure  
The world will be happy to scan,  
A scowl is to no one a treasure,  
'Tis better to laugh when we can.

### To Scald Milk Properly.

It is recommended that the milk supply cities, at least in hot weather, be scalded soon as received by the consumers, to prevent its souring. To scald milk properly the following method is advised: Take a thin glass bottle provided with a rubber cork, fill it with milk nearly up to the neck, and place it uncorked in a kettle of water which should then be gradually brought to a boil. When steam has commenced to escape from the bottle, cork it lightly, and continue the boiling from thirty-five to forty minutes, and the process will be complete. A bottle of milk thus prepared, it is said, will remain sweet a month if kept in a cool place and tightly corked.

### A Wonderful Memory.

Last week there passed through Reading a Canadian Pacific Railway employe who was a phenomenal power of observation, and was talk of the railway people. He is a half-breed, or Indian, by name Leo, and is now employe as freight conductor. When first employed as brakeman he could not read or write, though he could, if shown the number on a car or paper, go out to the yard and select the proper one. Now he can both read and write; and his talent of memory has been cultivated at the same time. Recently he won a wager by telling the numbers in a paper order of 167 cars that were in a yard through which he had made one trip.

### Posy Rings.

Posy rings, as they were called, were one time very popular, though the present specimens: "In thee, my choice, I do rejoice."

Again, "Constancy and heaven are found, And in this Emblem's form, A certain Bishop Lincoln, in the last century, had engraved on the wedding ring the fourth marriage: "If I survive, I'll make thee true."