

## Queen Victoria Shops.

Balmoral Castle, Nov. 3, 188—  
& Co.

I am commanded by her Majesty to request your attendance at the castle on Wednesday, Nov. 7, as her Majesty wishes to purchase several pieces of jewelry.

Henry Ponsonby.

This was about the wording of a note received by a firm of jewelers in Edinburgh, Scotland, several years ago. It put the entire concern into a ferment, from the head of the house to the lowest messenger. It meant that the house had been recognized by the Queen as the leading concern in its line in Scotland, and that thereafter it would be entitled to the use of the legend, "Jewelers to Her Majesty." Every business house in Great Britain longs for and works for the privilege by using these words in connection with its special line of trade. Such an order from the Queen may entail very heavy expense, but this is more than offset, as a rule, by the prestige gained by the free advertising that follows, and by the customers that flock to a store which enjoys the Queen's patronage.

Queen Victoria is debarred from the pleasures and the pains of shopping. It is not conceivable that the Queen of Great Britain and Empress of India could enter a shop like an ordinary mortal, but as it is necessary that she should shop occasionally, she, instead of going to the shop, issues her request in the form given above, and the shop goes to her. At her leisure she makes her selections, and in due course the bill is audited and paid by the comptroller of the royal household. Perhaps the only man in America at this time who has waited upon Queen Victoria as a salesman is Charles Lytton Seale, who was sent to Balmoral as the representative of the Edinburgh jewelers summoned. This is the story of his first and only direct communication with royalty:

"The jewelry house was a very old and prominent one in the trade, but had never before enjoyed the honor of the royal patronage, and it had been the great ambition of the firm to enjoy that distinction. Accordingly nothing was omitted that could make a favorable impression upon her Majesty, her household, officers, attendants, and servants. I was selected to represent the firm and was directed to make and prepare a selection of goods that would attract and please the Queen. I was instructed to spare no pains or expense in making my visit a success. Direct profits were not to be considered for a moment. I secured carte blanche to distribute money, jewels, or favors wherever they would do the most good, for it was thoroughly understood that friends at court must both be made and retained. While this was expensive, it was one of the penalties incident to the Queen's patronage. I stored my sample cases with the choicest of Scottish jewelry, such as gems, rings, dirks, crosses, from Iona, skene-dhus, Luckies, scarf-pins, bracelets, watches, breastpins, chains, and such articles as were peculiar to Scottish manufacture. My selection was valued at £50,000.

"On the date indicated I arrived at the castle gate with my precious case in a heavy snow storm. I was received by a porter, who asked, not unpleasantly, 'What do you wish?' I replied, 'I wish to go to the castle on business with her Majesty.' I was then conducted to the lodge, where I was met by another porter, who inspected me carefully, and read the letter from Gen. Ponsonby, which served as my credentials. The first porter then took my sample case and conducted me to the steward's department of the castle itself. The steward, who at that time was Andrew McIntosh, greeted me graciously, inspected my paper, and said he would report my arrival to her Majesty at the earliest opportunity. In the meantime he bade me make myself comfortable. A servant in the gorgeous scarlet livery of the Queen, then took the jewel case, and conducted me to the rooms I was to occupy while awaiting the Queen's pleasure. These rooms consisted of a parlor and bedroom, each twelve by fifteen feet in size, and plainly, but comfortably furnished. A velvet carpet covered the floors, and silk rep curtains draped the windows. There was a bureau dresser with cheval glass, easy chairs, a large wicker rocker, washstand and a bed furnished with finest linen. On a central table stood a silver-mounted ram's horn mull with snuff, without which no hospitable Highland home is complete. The walls were hung with pictures of the royal family and engravings representing Scottish scenery.

"At 1 o'clock the liveried servant called me to luncheon. The same servant was my attendant during my stay at the castle. He took care of my clothes, shaved me, and, in fact, was detailed as my valet. He led me to the steward's dining hall, where I, as a guest awaiting the Queen's orders, had a seat on the left of the steward and directly opposite John Brown, the Queen's favorite servant. At the tables were the six or eight heads of departments, or chief servants, including the head seamstress, the chief telegrapher, and the head housekeeper. The room itself was finished in polished mahogany, and was perfect in all its appointments. The table was furnished with the finest or eighty lower servants employed about the castle. The table was served by two scarlet liveried servants with powdered wigs and silk stockings. The meal was served in courses, and with choice wines Champagne was served only on holidays or on the birthday of some member of the royal family or high dignitary, but as these were numerous there are comparatively few days in the year when the steward's table is not regaled with champagne for the purpose of drinking a toast to some one. The conversation consisted largely of castle gossip wherein the name of the Queen and the Prince of Wales were often used in the most matter-of-fact way. Grace is always said at

the table, and the sentence 'May the Lord protect her Majesty' is never omitted.

"These same favored servants of the Queen were not only not above accepting tips, but expected them. Every servant in the house from the steward to the humblest stable hand, expected something if he could by any possibility extend a courtesy, no matter how slight.

"As a privileged guest I was invited on one occasion to dine in the servants' hall. The servants' hall is at least 150 feet in length by 60 in width. It is finished throughout in dark antique oak, with heavy carved oak beams across the ceiling. It is plain, rich, and handsome, and altogether a noble and striking room. It was here that the Queen and the lords and the ladies sometimes took part in the festivities of the servants, and in her youngest days the Queen would sometimes sit through a dance with the best coachman or footman. Down the centre of the hall is a long, heavy oak table flanked with oak chairs. At this table the seventy linen, silver, and cut glass, and every the castle and grounds take their meals. The head coachman occupies the place of honor at the head of the table. The rule as to position at the board is enforced and observed most punctiliously. Every servant takes his place according to his rank in the Queen's employ. To the right and left of the coachman, who presides with great dignity, sit the chief groom, chief cook, chief gardener, chief forester, and the chiefs of the female help. Then in the order of their rank come the under grooms, cooks, gamekeepers and chambermaids, and so on down the long table come the gillies, house cleaners, scullery maids, and stable hands. Grace is always said by the coachman amid the strictest silence, and 'May the Lord Protect Her Majesty' is a formula observed as faithfully as though in a Church of England cathedral. The food served here is plain, substantial, and bountiful, consisting mostly of roasts, vegetables and plain desserts. It is placed on the table hand to hand, and each servant is expected to provide for all hands, and on the birthdays of the Queen and the Prince of Wales and at Christmas times champagne.

"On another occasion I met John Brown during a stroll before breakfast. We were on good terms through our acquaintance at the table, though I had not seen him elsewhere until this chance meeting. He was a most picturesque figure in his Highland costume, which he always wore when at Balmoral. He greeted me with the bluff, hearty, kindly way that was characteristic of the man and invited me to his apartments. As the Queen's favorite was a good deal of a factor in the royal social life at the castle, he was an important individual for me to cultivate and know well. I accepted his invitation and soon found myself in the main portion of the castle, for Brown's apartments, instead of being in the steward's wing where the rest of the servants were quartered, adjoined the occupied by the Queen, where he could be within immediate call. His suite consisted of a reception room, parlor, bedroom and bathroom, all finished in light oak, and handsomely, even richly furnished. Costly rugs covered the floor and the tables and mantels were profusely decorated with souvenirs and mementoes in the form of jewels, mugs, clocks, and vases, which had been presented to him from time to time by royal personages or high dignitaries. The walls of the rooms were a study, for they were literally covered with pictures, paintings, engravings, and photographs of the reigning family of England and of nearly all the living rulers and statesmen of Europe, and of many who were dead. I was told that his collection was the most comprehensive gallery of portraits in England, and its value was enhanced by the fact that almost every picture had the autographic signature of the original access to lower edge. Brown was very proud of his collection, which had taken many years to gather. I have often wondered what has become of his unique gallery since his death.

"With true Highland hospitality he first offered the snuff from a silver mull. It is etiquette in that country to accept snuff with your host, and to refuse is regarded as particularly churlish. I had in my pocket a particularly handsome, bejeweled skene-dhu, or Scottish dirk, valued at something over £50. As the old Highlander was very much pleased with the bauble, I asked him to accept it as a souvenir of my visit. This he did without the least show of hesitation, and forthwith the article found a place with other gifts or tips about the room. He was my ready friend during the rest of my sojourn at the castle, and proved of no small assistance on one or two occasions. I subsequently made liberal gifts to all the upper servants including the steward, and to many of the lower servants also in pursuance of my instructions. In every case they were accepted quite as a matter of course, and were evidently regarded as legitimate perquisites of office in the royal household. My account for gifts made in this manner footed up over £400, but my firm, regarded this as money well spent, and I was congratulated on my action in this regard.

"I had been at the castle a full week before I received any word from the Queen. On the morning of the eighth day a special messenger called for me and said her Majesty would see me, and that I was to bring my jewels. I responded at once to the summons, and was conducted to the Queen's apartments, or at least to what I took to be a music room. Here I spread my wares on several small tables and the grand piano and waited. Presently the door opened and the Queen, preceded by John Brown, and followed by Miss MacDonald, entered. I bowed as any gentleman would bow to a lady entering, and the salutation was returned in an easy, unaffected manner. The Queen seated herself at a table, and immediately began an inspection of the goods with evident interest. I had been cautioned beforehand by Brown not to speak until I had been spoken to, and on no account to address the Queen unless she spoke directly to me. These instructions I followed faithfully throughout.

"The Queen commented on the different articles as Miss MacDonald handed them to her, one after another. The conversation was generally in French, but, as I understood the language, all that was said was perfectly intelligible to me. Her remarks were of an ordinary character, and such as a well-bred lady might be supposed to make while on a shopping expedition. While examining a brooch she asked Miss MacDon-

ald what the price was, whereupon the lady turned to me and repeated the question. I answered 'Three hundred guineas.' Miss MacDonald then turned to the Queen, and repeated, 'Three hundred guineas, ma'am.' 'Oh, exclaimed the Queen, 'that seems very dear,' as she laid the article down. Sometimes she would express satisfaction, and occasionally would criticize an article by saying: 'This is very tasteful,' or 'I think that is quite artistic,' or again, 'Oh, I think that is very ugly.' At one time she had quite an animated discussion with John Brown over the merits of a silver statuette. Brown freely and almost bluntly expressed his opinion, although it was quite the reverse of that held by the Queen.

"After selecting eight or ten of the most expensive articles, with the simple formula: 'I will take that,' or 'You may lay that aside,' she turned her attention to the lower-priced goods. These she examined with less care, but asked the price of each before deciding. After selecting about ten of these articles she nearly took my breath away by saying to Miss MacDonald: 'I will take a dozen of each of these.'

"The shopping had lasted about three quarters of an hour, when she turned abruptly to Miss MacDonald and said: 'That will do for the present.' She then bowed and retired, but suggested to Miss MacDonald as she passed out that I had better remain at the castle a few days, until the Prince of Wales and Princess Maud returned, as they might wish to see my display. At this parting, but pleasant suggestion was repeated to me the door closed and the Queen's shopping expedition was ended for the day. The total purchases made by her Majesty amounted to about £810.

"As the Queen's suggestion that I remain a few days longer was equivalent to a command, I sojourned in my comfortable quarters for another week. I saw the Prince and Princess in due time and made a satisfactory sale to them."

## NEW IDEAS IN FARMING.

Inoculating the Soil With Fertilizing Microbes.

Besides buying well-selected fertilizers, the progressive farmer of the future will also provide himself with bottled billions of the microbes which enable plants to obtain nitrogen from the air. It was a long puzzle to chemists to learn how nitrogen is absorbed. It was clear that under ordinary circumstances plants are unable to appropriate directly from the air the nitrogen they absolutely require for their growth. The air in the pores of the soil contains plenty of it, but the roots are not capable of causing it to become a constituent of the sap or fiber. Leguminous plants, such as beans, peas and clover, require a great deal of nitrogen, and it was of special interest to provide them artificially, if possible, with this important constituent.

The mystery was dispelled by a recent discovery that the roots of plants capable of absorbing nitrogen bear little protuberances, and it is through these protuberances that the nitrogen is taken in. Further study with the help of the microscope revealed the fact that the protuberances contain millions of bacteria, and that it is these bacteria that absorb the nitrogen and give it to the roots of plants in a form in which it can be used by them. To the activity of these beneficent bacteria—particularly leguminous plants—owe their vigor and perhaps their existence in their present form. The plant life, in this view, is a result, an incidental product, of the vital processes of microbes, a million of which could swim with comfort in

## A SINGLE DROP OF WATER.

The next step was to isolate, by methods with which bacteriologists are familiar, the varieties of bacteria suited to each crop, and to breed them artificially in paying quantities.

This has been done. A German firm breeds seventeen species of bacteria of the nitrogen-absorbing species and sells them to agriculturists in bottles under the name of "nitragin." A bottle containing some thousand billions of the useful bacteria and selling for \$1.25 will "inoculate," it is said, an acre of ground. The experience of farmers with "nitragin" is too brief to qualify them to speak with certainty of its practical utility. Some have obtained encouraging results, while others have not. It has been on the market less than a year and began to be used too late in the season for a fair test. "Nitragin" ought to be used before it is two months old, and its vitality is impaired, if not wholly lost, when it is four months old. It must be kept in a cool place, and is best applied, perhaps, at night, since it is injured by exposure to the light. Its function is to assist germinating seeds and small seeds and small roots to put forth the desired protuberances.

It is accordingly useless for growing plants and in soils already well supplied with nitrogen in the required form. Under favorable conditions several experimenters have obtained, it is said, excellent results. Cereals have not been found susceptible to its influence to an appreciable extent. Much remains to be determined as to the extent of its utility. It is yet undecided, it seems, whether the seed or the soil is to be inoculated—whether the seed should be mixed with gelatin containing the "nitragin," or whether the "nitragin" should be mixed with a quantity of soil and the latter scattered over the area to be treated. In any case, agriculturists have in nitragin an interesting subject of experiment.

## NECESSARY ADJUNCTS.

Mr. Savery. What! Retrimming your last year's hat? You are an angel! Mrs. Savery. An angel, am I? Well, then, give me \$10 to buy wings.

## THE LAWYER AND THE WIDOW.

A lawyer was questioning a widow the other day about her history. My history, she replied, is simplicity itself. My first was the happiness of my life, my second was goodness itself, my third—Excuse me, madam, interrupted the lawyer, but really we aren't here to guess charades.

## MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE

A KING'S CLEMENCY SAVED THE INNOCENT MAN'S LIFE.

Years Afterwards the Guilty Man Makes a Full Confession of the Terrible Crime—Why Portugal Abolished the Death Penalty.

Parada, the once famous prisoner of the Relacem prison, in Oporto, Portugal is dead. News of his death in Africa has recently been received. During fifteen years the mysterious convict, whose only prototype in the annals of famous prisoners was the romantic prisoner of the Bastille, the "Man With the Iron Mask," suffered in solitary confinement for a crime he never committed.

Something over twenty years ago all Europe was shocked by the details of the murder of a Catholic priest who had charge of the diocese of Barga, in North Portugal. The priest was conducting early mass, when a young man suddenly sprang to his feet, and, drawing a knife from his belt, rushed towards the priest, shouting:—

"You have wronged my family! Under your stole beats a craven heart, and I will tear it out!"

Friends seized him and dragged him down the aisle into the street. He raved and shouted back:—

"I will kill him yet! He will be dead before sunset. I will kill him even if I have to crawl into his bedroom to do it!"

## THE DEED WAS DONE.

No one believed he was serious, but, nevertheless, more out of a spirit of mischief than in expectation of seeing a crime committed, a crowd of about twenty young men and women gathered in the vicinity of the priest's house between five and six o'clock that evening.

They were about to disperse when they saw the figure of a man leap from a window of the priest's house. He landed in the garden, and, raising himself, started for the hills. It was Parada. Many started in pursuit, but although the entire village was roused he got away.

While one crowd was chasing Parada, another thronged about the priest's house, and some of them entered. They started back when they discovered the priest lying on the floor of his bedroom dead.

## ARRESTED.

After several days of hiding Parada was captured, a changed man. He was as meek as a lamb, and full of repentance, and begged his neighbors to be lenient with him, though he vowed his innocence.

He was placed on trial. His defence was that he went to the house with the full intention of killing the priest for wrongs which he felt his family had suffered. The rest is told in his own words:—

"Fully determined upon killing him I crept to his bedroom, expecting to find him in prayer or asleep, but when I looked in I almost lost my breath. He was on the floor. His lips were trying to move as if he were gasping. I was frightened. I jumped from the window to the garden, and made for the hills, because I found myself pursued. In my excitement in getting away I lost my knife, but I never knew where until I heard that it was found in the room alongside the dead man."

## A ROYAL DEED.

Suicide was the plea put forward by the prisoner's lawyers, but conviction followed, and he was sentenced to death. But King Peter V., of Portugal, was impressed by Parada's earnest plea of innocence, and changed the sentence to imprisonment for life.

Thereafter Peter V. received regularly twice a year, just before Good Friday and before his birthday, a letter, each time from some foreign port, written in the same handwriting, and consisting only of these words:—"Parada is innocent. Pardon him."

The Kings of Portugal are allowed by law only to pardon convicts twice a year, on Good Friday and on their birthday, and these letters came regularly for many years.

## A CONFESSION.

About seven years ago the real murderer, for it was a murder, died in the hospital at Barbanza. On his deathbed he sent for the highest police officials and the Mayor, and made this confession:—

"I had reasons to hate the priest whom Parada, swore to kill, and I was in the church at Braga that morning. I saw a chance of settling a debt of vengeance. I entered the house early and remained concealed there until I thought it was time for Parada to come, and then I slew the priest and escaped."

This confession fifteen years after the crime brought about Parada's pardon, and caused the death penalty to be abolished in Portugal. The news of Parada's death recalls the story of this remarkable case of miscarried justice.

## SECRECY OF THE SULTAN.

No one knows where the Sultan will spend any portion of the day or evening. Every movement he makes is kept a profound secret. He has more than 50 bedrooms, and no one can tell in which he means to sleep. These apartments are separated from the rest of the building by iron doors, and are furnished with locks of extraordinary and ingenious construction. It is even said that in the walls and ceilings of these rooms there are secret hiding places. Two noble St. Bernard dogs lie outside the door of the room in which Abdul may be sleeping.

## THREE WORDS ADDED.

Did you hear what Brief, the lawyer, has for his motto?  
No. What?  
Where there's a will there's a way to break it.

## WANDERERS AMONG THE NATIONS.

Statistics of Foreigners and Emigration in Various Countries.

There is only one country in the world, so far as official figures show, in which the number of foreign residents is exactly the same as the number of natives living abroad. That country is the republic of Switzerland, which, by the last enumeration by cantons, was seen to have a foreign population of 250,000, whereas the total number of natives of Switzerland in other countries foots up the same figure, 105,000 of them being residents of the United States and more than 100,000 being residents of the republic of France. Though a century ago the Swiss who left their homes for official or military service in other countries were known for their allegiance to royalty and monarchical institutions, the Swiss of to-day residing away from home go by preference to republican countries. There are very few natives of Switzerland to be found, as the reports show, in countries under monarchical rule.

Russia is the European country from which, in proportion to the total population, emigration has been smallest. The total number of Russians in all the countries of the world, excluding Poland from the computation, is 200,000, and the number of foreign residents of Russia is very nearly as large, 175,000. The other extreme is reached in the case of Ireland. The present population of that country is about 5,100,000, and only 100,000 of the inhabitants of Ireland were born in other countries, and of this number only 20,000 in countries other than those included in the United Kingdom. Though there are only 20,000 foreigners in Ireland, the number of natives of Ireland resident in other countries exceeds 5,000,000. There are 2,000,000 natives of Ireland resident in the United States, more than 1,000,000 in Canada, nearly 500,000 in Australia, 700,000 in England, and nearly 300,000 in Scotland.

The number of foreigners resident in France is 1,200,000, and the number of French residents of other countries, exclusive of French colonies, is materially less. There are fewer than 125,000 natives of France resident in the United States. The Argentine Republic contains about the same number, and in the various countries of Europe there are about 200,000 more in all less than 500,000 natives of France resident in other countries less than one-half the number of foreigners residing in France.

Englishmen and Scotchmen are, of course, to be found in every part of the world, but the total number of them residing on the European Continent is surprisingly low—less than 100,000. There are four times as many foreign-born residents in England and Wales as there are Englishmen, Irishmen, Welshmen, and Scotchmen residing in the whole of Europe outside of the United Kingdom. There are thirty times as many Scotchmen in Canada alone as the total foreign population of Scotland, and there are 200,000 natives of Scotland resident in Australia. The number of foreigners resident in Italy is less than one-twentieth of the number of Italians resident abroad and the number of foreigners resident in Germany is about one-twentieth of the number of Germans resident in other countries.

## ELECTRIC PLOUGHING PRIZES.

The Germans are very much in earnest about electric ploughing. Their National Agricultural Society has arranged a prize competition among power-driven ploughs, intended specially to encourage and develop the application of electric power to the working of ploughs and other agricultural implements. In the trials non-electrical ploughs will also be tested, so that a comparison may be made of the relative efficiency of the different systems. Only ploughs will be tested, as it is considered that the power could easily be applied to other implements with but slight alterations. Special attention will be paid to the conveyance of the outfits from field to field. One prize of 3,000 marks and another of 1,000 marks will be given for the best plough driven by any kind of power, and there will be a special prize for the best electrically driven plough. A piece of heavy and a piece of light land will be assigned for tilling to each competitor. Points will be given for 1, the time taken for the ploughing; 2, the weight of earth moved; 3, the consumption of fuel by the motor; 4, the power consumed between the motor and the plough; 5, the cost of the ploughing, including fuel, water, lubricants, attendance, repairs, interest and depreciation.

## NOT A FAIR TEST.

Ferry. What do you think of this idea that a man's real character is revealed in his hand-writing?  
Wallace. I don't believe it. Of course a man's character is not revealed by his hand-writing. I have heard love letters read in court, the author of which I knew were not the asses that the letters made them out to be.

## DRASTIC PUNISHMENT.

The singular punishment for bigamy in Hungary is to compel the man to live together with both wives in one house.

## BATS' QUEER ANATOMY.

Bats are most curiously constructed, the heart's action being aided by the rhythmic contractions of the veins of the wings.

## THE EMERALD ISLE.

The excellent pasture and beautiful verdure for which Ireland is so remarkable are owing chiefly to the moisture it receives from the vapors of the Atlantic. It is from these green pastures that it has obtained the name of the "Emerald Isle."