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THE HOME OF GENIUS. LANCAIRES GETS PALM AMONG ENGLISH COUNTIES.

With John Bright, Gladstone, Robert Peel, Lord Morley, De Quincey Mrs. Hemans, Richard Arkwright Romney, Sothorn, Kemble and Keap It Stands First—Manchester Has Also a Fine List.

Many Englishmen will probably dispute the decision recently arrived at by the judges at a debate on this subject before the Society of Warwickshire Folk in London, who, after listening to the champions of celebrities of thirteen counties, gave their verdict in favor of Lancashire.

No doubt the County Palatine which boasts that "what it thinks to day England will think to-morrow," produced a goodly number of famous men. Lancashire was the native county of John Bright, whose oratory fascinated and enthralled men among other famous statesmen which it claims being Gladstone, who was born at Liverpool, Sir Robert Peel who was born at Bury, and Lord Morley who claims Blackburn as his native place.

In literature the county is very strongly represented: De Quincey Mrs. Hemans, the famous poetess, Hall Calne, Harrison Ainsworth, and Richard La-Gallienne, being among other famous authors who were born in Lancashire. Neither must one forget Sir Richard Arkwright, the inventor of the cotton-spinning frame; Romney, the famous painter; and such actors as John Kemble, Sothorn, and Edmund Kean, three of the greatest who ever appeared on the English stage.

Hampshire is proudly referred to by its people and admirers as the cradle of the English race—the cradle of the ecclesiastical system, cradle of the English navy, and the cradle of national games of cricket. Palmerston, Thomas Arnold, Charles Dickens, George Meredith, Millais, and Tennyson, who, though he was born in Lincolnshire, had his favorite residence in the Isle of Wight, are men who have added lustre to little this county.

Mr. Morice Gerard (Rev. J. Jessop Teague), author of many popular books, proudly claims for Derbyshire that it is the county which started everything. In other words, that its famous men were the pioneers in all things. It produced James Brindley, founder of canals; Sir Francis Chantrey, one of the finest sculptors who ever lived, and who left \$500,000 to found the Chantrey Bequest; Herbert Spencer, the founder of that school in which Huxley and Darwin graduated; Sir Hugh Willoughby, the first of a long line of explorers from Deptford to find the Northwest passage; Sir James Outram, the Bayard of India; and last but not least, "Little John," Robin Hood's great small man.

On the other hand, Warwickshire claims to have produced Robin Hood himself, and among other greater celebrities Shakespeare, acknowledged to be among the greatest of Englishmen, Walter Savage Landor, George Eliot, Sir Edwin Arnold, David Cox, Sir Francis Galton, Burges Jones, James Watt, Richard Baxter, and Cardinal Newman. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain was certainly born in Chamberwell, but his finest work has been done in Warwickshire, where he had spent the greater part of his life. Warwickshire's list wants a good deal of beating.

Gallant little Sussex, however, not only claims to have produced the man who evolved the mangel-wurzel, but such men as Cobden and Shelley; and the latter was born near Horsham; and is also not a little proud of the fact that F. W. Lillwhite, one of the fathers of cricket, was a Sussex man. But the Channel Islands do not feel inclined to give way to any English county in regard to sporting champions, for it is from Jersey that those two wonderful golfers Ray and Vardon came.

Good old "Zummerzet" claims Henry Fielding, father of the English novel, who was born a few miles from Glastonbury. It also produced George Bacon, father of science; Chatterton, the boy poet; Sebastian Carter, the great explorer; Sir Francis Irving, too, came from Somerset, as well as John Locke, one of the greatest philosophers of his time, not to mention John Bull, who was erroneously believed to be the author of "God Save the King," and who was a Somersetshire man and a notable musician. It has been rather humorously suggested that Staffordshire's greatest claim to fame is that Jonathan Wild and Jack Sheppard, both hanged at Tyburn, were born within its borders; but those who made the remark willfully forget that that county was the birthplace of Samuel Johnson, Isaac Walton, father of fishermen; Henry Newbolt, and those two popular writers, Arnold Bennett and Jerome K. Jerome.

A JEW WITH A STORY. Sir Ernest Cassel was a Liverpool Bank Clerk But Didn't Stay.

Half a century ago there was in a bank in Liverpool a young German clerk from Cologne named Ernest Cassel. He came to England in the German army before leaving his native city on the Rhine. His father sent him to England fortune-hunter and with his way to make. He fell in with a young man named Herling, who worked in a butcher shop, and another young Jew named Bischoffsheim. They all became multimillionaires.

Mr. Bischoffsheim became a power in London, and it was with him that Cassel began to show that he was not a "pushover" for the money. He was always ready to do his capacity. And when the time came that these two brilliant financiers came into association with Ernest Cassel things began to hum "on Change." These three for many years were partners in a one-third share each in their joint venture, and their industrial propaganda became world wide.

It was in 1871 that Ernest Cassel went to London, and by 1879 he was already greatly interested in several railway enterprises in America. No brass was allowed to the end of his feet of this one-time office boy from Cologne. Backwards and forwards he went between New York and London. His financial eminence soon became so great that Mexico approached him, and soon his railway men were making their way to an accessible country get-at-able from all points. Then his genius was used by Piririo Diaz, the Mexican President, in order to raise funds.

But other gigantic schemes were already claiming the attention of the enterprising Cassel. Meanwhile the late Sir John Aird was able to breathe freely once more, for Sir Ernest had promised all that was required. In consequence of the able co-operation of Sir Ernest, the great dam at Assouan was actually completed before it was expected. Sir Ernest's reward for this great piece of Empire building was the Knight Commanderhip of St. Michael and St. George, while the Sultan of Turkey presented him with the Order of the Medjidieh. Cassel is a friend and close financial adviser of King George.

The Black Watch. The famous Black Watch (42nd Royal Highland) Regiment to which the 5th Royal Highlanders of Canada (Montreal) are allied—was raised in 1729 with the idea of making use of it as a means of protecting the country which was then in an unsettled state. The duty of the regiment consisted in carrying out the "Disarming Act" and preventing depredations; for this purpose the men were quartered in small detachments in various parts of the country, chiefly in the troubled districts of the Highlands. The various companies acting independently of each other. In 1740 the Government increased the number to 1,000 men. Up to that period each company was dressed in tartans selected by its commander, but as the companies were now to act as one regiment, it was necessary to have a uniform dress. The first colonel, Lord Crawford, being a Lowlander, and having no tartan of his own, a new tartan different from any other was manufactured, this being a mixture of various shades of black, green and blue. This ultimately became the well-known 42nd or Black Watch. There are two regular battalions—the 42nd and the 73rd Regt.—and a militia battalion, Royal Perth Militia. The great strength of the Black Watch was shown during the African war when the officers and men of the regiment showed that neither the officers nor the men of to-day have lost one iota of that traditional dash, determination, and bravery which have won for the Black Watch so glorious a place in British military annals.

Lady Church Bell Ringers. At the Parish Church of Appledeor, Devon, Eng., worshippers are called to the services by lady bell-ringers. A wealthy resident recently presented the church a peal of eight bells. Several lady church workers at once placed their services at the disposal of the vicar, with the result that an expert ringer gave the ladies lessons in ringing. At Easter this year the ladies gave their first public performance by ringing a peal at a wedding. The peal was rung daily every week. Some idea of the work may be gathered from the fact that the tenor bell weighs 11 cwt., and yet through all the training not even a stay has been broken. This is another branch of work which women are taking up on behalf of the church.

The Old Time Dandy. From an English newspaper printed in the year 1777 is the following description of a dandy: "A few days ago a macaroni made his appearance in the assembly rooms at Whitehaven dressed in a mixed silk coat, pink satin waistcoat and breeches covered with an elegant silk net, white silk stockings with pink stripes, pink satin shoes and large pearl buttons, a mushroom colored stock covered with the point lace, hair dressed remarkably high and stuck full of pearls."

A Poor Analogy. Major Harland Bowden, the Unionist candidate in Northeast Derbyshire, who condemns at meetings the haste with which, as he alleges, the Insurance Act was rushed through, made a neat reply to an interjection the other night. He was enlarging in his usual style on the imperfections of the act. "Rome was not built in a day," came a voice from the audience. "Unfortunately, the Insurance Act was," retorted the major.

The man who demands favors usually has nothing to return for them. Honesty always pays—but it's often slow. All women are beautiful, ingenious, and truthful. Seeking women are less ridiculous than swearing men. Even the fool remarks of a millionaire can pass for wisdom. If nobody had too much, then everybody would have enough.

BRITISH NAVY UNIFORM. Blue For Sailors Does Not Go Back Beyond 1748.

When we get accustomed to some long-established fashion we are apt to think that it is founded on the blue of the sea, and that it is always been so, and may forever remain so. Let me give an example—blue is the chief and predominant color in naval uniforms, and no doubt most people will say, "Of course it is." They will argue that blue is the obvious color for the dress of a sailor because the sea is blue, says the writer of "Sub Rosa" in The Daily News and Leader (London), and is described as "the azure main." The phrase "navy blue," "bluejacket," and ultra-marine all show that we accept the idea that blue is necessary for the sailor, for the sailor goes to work with the sea. Let no one suppose that I question the appropriateness of such a choice, but there was a time when our naval officers dressed themselves up in all sorts of gay colors.

In the month of 1748 there was no naval uniform, and the captain of a warship dressed himself and his officers as he liked. There were naval "butts" in those days—for instance, Captain Windham and the officers of the Kent, a ship of 70 guns, wore (in 1746) gray and silver, faced with white, and the admiral wore a red and white coat together with check shirts and puttees. The admiral for those days was Sir John Boscawen, who met every Sunday evening at Will's coffee house in Scotland Yard, for the purpose of watching over the admiral's interests. It is the fixed view of naval officers that the admiral who founded the navy, and that it has been going to the dogs ever since. On one memorable Sunday night the assembled heroes determined that "a uniform dress was useful and necessary for the commissioned officers, agreeable to the practice of other nations, and they formed a committee, and it waited on the Duke of Bedford, who was at the head of the Admiralty, and His Grace brought the question before King George II.

The committee agreed with the proposal, and in the end Mr. Forbes, then admiral of the fleet, was summoned to attend the Duke of Bedford. He went and found the room decorated with all sorts of different naval dress, and he was asked his opinion as to the most appropriate. The admiral's view was that the uniform should be red and blue, the red and blue, as these, he said, were the national colors. It was then that the duke remarked with some complacency that the King had determined otherwise, and he went on to say: "The King's dress is riding in the park a few days ago, in a habit of blue faced with white, the dress took the fancy of His Majesty, who has appointed it for the uniform of the royal navy." Probably the duke's little knew when she ordered that riding habit that her choice would have so great and so lasting a result.

Lucky Name for Sailors. Among many English seafaring men there is a tradition that no man blessed with the name of Hugh Williams will ever die at sea—a tradition based on one of the most remarkable series of coincidences ever recorded in the life of those who go down to the sea in ships. It is the name of the man who was killed in a storm in the North Sea and went down. The vessel was the "The Duke of Devonshire," and the young princess wears the epaulet, the broad belt and the plumed helmet with a girlish grace. Her younger sister, the Grand Duchess Tatiana Nikolaevna, has corresponded in rank in the 8th Volynskii Regiment, and her tunic is heavily braided, while the narrow belt ends in a curious tassel. The helmet is of low rounded shape, the bunch of feathers being in the centre over the brow and clasped with the device of the regiment.

Will the Leek Go? There is at least one patriotic Welshman who does not mean to give up the leek without a struggle, despite Mr. Lloyd George's repudiation of that vegetable as the Welsh national emblem a year or two ago. Mr. Lloyd George has a preference for the aesthetic daffodil; but Mr. Tonley, of Montgomery, has made a successful protest against the omission of the leek from a suggested cover design for the almanac of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows. Shakespeare himself recognized the leek as the national emblem of Wales when he wrote Fluellen's part in "Henry V.," and if that is not enough for the doubters and daffodil lovers, Caxton wrote of Welshmen that: "They have gruel to potage And leeks kind to companage. And of the Welshwoman that: Atte mette, and after eke Her solace is salt and leeks."

A Chronic Grumbler. Charles Lamb tells of a chronic grumbler who always complained at what because he had so few trumpets. By some artifice his companions managed to fix the cards so that when he dealt he got the whole thirteen, hoping to extort some expression of satisfaction, but he only looked more wretched than ever as he examined his hand. "Well, Tom," said Lamb, "haven't you trumpets enough this time?" "Yes," grunted Tom, "but I've no other cards."

Earthquake Near Tonga. A violent earthquake shock was recorded a few days ago by the River View seismograph, Sydney, Australia. This is the severest disturbance of its kind that has as yet been registered by the instrument, the waves lasting for three hours. It is supposed that the earthquake occurred at a point somewhere near Tonga.

Age of Palms. Palms live under favorable conditions for 250 years. Always men would rather get the short end of an argument than keep quiet. It is because a man doesn't know a woman that he asks her to marry him?

A popular man is one who doesn't say smart things at the expense of his friends. The man who admits that he is sometimes made the mistake of his life is not being born a woman.

WOMEN COLONELS. Four New Ones Have Been Gazetted in British Army.

British army circles, and, indeed, a large section of the general public, looked forward with curiosity to the first appearance in public of the four new colonels-in-chief-in-peticoats of the British regiments. The gazetting of the Queen, the Queen-Mother, the Princess Royal, and Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, to their new appointments was the first instance in British history of women of any rank whatsoever being honored with military rank, although the custom is, of course, in vogue in several European countries. The departure is being taken as a recognition of the greater concern that women are manifesting in the service of the country.

Up to now the association of women, of however lofty rank, with the British army has been limited to cases in which their names are associated with certain regiments, such, for instance, as the Yorkshire, who long have had the privilege of calling themselves Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own, Queen Victoria, as sovereign, was, of course, at the head of the army, but curiously enough, the only military title which she possessed, was German one, and the same, up to now, has been true of Queen Mary. Queen Victoria was colonel-in-chief of the 1st (Queen of England's) Dragoons of the Guards of the German army. It is a famous regiment that has for its proud motto "With God for King and Fatherland." During a visit of the German Emperor to England in 1888, he conferred the distinction upon Queen Victoria, who was very much pleased with it, and showed afterward a keen interest in the regiment to which she presented a magnificent pair of kettle-drums. A detachment of the regiment came to England and was assigned an important place in those august and moving ceremonies of the great Queen's funeral.

As for Queen Mary, she is colonel-in-chief of the 5th Pomeranian Hussars. This is an historic corps, for it was raised as the 9th Regiment of Prussian Hussars in 1758, and much later was reorganized as Prince Bismarck's own "Wahlstadt's Own," and was one of the corps to receive the thanks of the British nation after Waterloo.

The British regiment, of which the Queen now has become colonel-in-chief, is the 18th Hussars, who carry the Peninsula Waterloo, South Africa, and the defence of Ladysmith among their battle honors. Their uniform is blue, as is their busby, bag, whose plume, however, is scarlet and white. The Queen-Mother's name already is attached with both the 19th Hussars and the Yorkshire Regiment. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, who becomes colonel-in-chief of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, has an especially appropriate recognition, for her work in providing for the Scottish convalescents after the South African war was of great value.

In the German army, the Kaiserin, the Crown Princess and the Duchess of Brunswick are all honorary colonels, as is also the Queen of Greece. The Empress of Russia is colonel-in-chief of the Lancers of the Guards, and looks remarkably handsome in its long cloak and the much-plumed helmet. Quite recently, too, the Czar has made the Grand Duchess Olga Nikolaevna, his youngest daughter, the 3rd Elisavetgradskii Hussars, and the young princess wears the epaulet, the broad belt and the plumed helmet with a girlish grace. Her younger sister, the Grand Duchess Tatiana Nikolaevna, has corresponded in rank in the 8th Volynskii Regiment, and her tunic is heavily braided, while the narrow belt ends in a curious tassel. The helmet is of low rounded shape, the bunch of feathers being in the centre over the brow and clasped with the device of the regiment.

Extracting venom from snakes for the purpose of making an antidote for the poison is being carried on at Parei Laboratory, Bombay. The poison is sent up to Kasauli, where it is injected in small quantities into horses and in course of time a certain amount of blood is drawn off. The blood corpuscles are separated from the serum and the latter is an antidote or antivenin as it is called. Several lives have been saved in Bombay by means of this antidote. A woman at Chumballa Hill was recently bitten and though in a state of collapse and paralysis when the injection was made, he recovered entirely in twenty minutes. In another case a few days ago a Mall was bitten by a poisonous snake, but recovered after treatment. At the laboratory there is now enough of venom to supply all the demands India is likely to make, and it is now being sent to Germany and America, cobra venom being very useful in experiments connected with the blood.

The Way to His Vote. Lord Beaconsfield's skill in picking up stray votes was well known. An illustration of it is given in a book by Henry W. Lacy. At the time that the imperial titles bill was pending there was a certain pompous little Irishman, Dr. O'Leary, who seemed manageable and was desirable. One evening in the lobby Disraeli had a hand familiarly on his shoulder. "Dear Dr. O'Leary, the resemblance is most striking," he said. "I really thought I saw again my old friend, Tom Moore." The vain little gentleman was captured.

Uganda Has New Museum. Big game hunters will find a redoubt in London in the commodious quarters established in Piccadilly as the official agency for the Government of British East Africa and Uganda. As in the case of most of the agencies of distant colonies, the East African office will include a museum showing the products of its territory, specimens of big game shot, and photographs of the hunting, as well as the headquarters of men engaged in business in East Africa.

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WOMEN PROPOSE THERE. And If Rejected They Promptly Kill Themselves.

The captain of the Southern Cross, the steamer which contributes greatly to the splendid work of the Melanesian Mission, once headed by the martyred Bishop Patteson, relates some surprising and highly interesting stories concerning the habits and customs of the Islanders. "There is one small island," says Captain Sinker, R.N.R., "where the women always propose marriage to the men, and if the man refuses the woman must kill herself. A young native who had been converted to Christianity visited the island, and a girl fell in love with him and proposed marriage. Unluckily, he was already engaged, and had to refuse. The girl quietly resigned herself to death, but the idea so revolted the young Christian native that he consulted a missionary, and asked whether he ought to do whether he ought to allow the girl to kill herself, or whether, to prevent this he ought to marry her. In the end it was agreed that he should marry her, in spite of his engagement in another island, and they became a very happy couple. There was no doubt that the girl would have killed herself. The people of the island would have insisted on it.

Captain Sinker does not believe in clothes for natives. "Usually a Melanesian has a great ambition to possess some European garments, and thinks that if he wears something which the white man wears, he is much more important and powerful. What the garment is doesn't concern him at all. He will put on anything he can get hold of. The result is often most ludicrous. A native man once made a public appearance wearing thirteen petticoats, and a chief appeared in a battered top hat and a waistcoat. This passion of European clothes has had a bad effect on the natives' health. When a native who comes out of the water he makes suit his great idea is to expose the rest of his life in it, and he would be agitated if you suggested to him that he might occasionally take it off.

Even when he swims he insists on keeping his clothes on, and when he comes out of the water he makes attempt to dry either himself or his clothes. They will sleep in the same clothes that they swim in, and they never see any necessity for washing them. The missionaries don't encourage them to wear clothes. It has been found that the better in every way if they wear only a loin cloth. In one island it is the custom for the men to grow their hair very long, and to make an elaborate affair of it on the top of the head, but the ambition of the women is to get the hair off. I have often seen women scraping their heads with pieces of broken bottles and gashing themselves badly in their efforts to get the right effect.

There are a few cannibals and head hunters in the less accessible parts of the islands. The cannibals' idea is not so much to have a good meal as to gain power by eating some important personage. When two tribes fight, the plan of campaign is to kill the enemy chief, and when he is killed the custom is for the victors to make a meal of him. By eating so powerful a man, they think they will gain power themselves. It is this outlook which is liable to make the position of the white man among the natives rather a nerve-racking one. He never knows when he will be needed for tonic purposes.

Venom as Antidote. Extracting venom from snakes for the purpose of making an antidote for the poison is being carried on at Parei Laboratory, Bombay. The poison is sent up to Kasauli, where it is injected in small quantities into horses and in course of time a certain amount of blood is drawn off. The blood corpuscles are separated from the serum and the latter is an antidote or antivenin as it is called. Several lives have been saved in Bombay by means of this antidote. A woman at Chumballa Hill was recently bitten and though in a state of collapse and paralysis when the injection was made, he recovered entirely in twenty minutes. In another case a few days ago a Mall was bitten by a poisonous snake, but recovered after treatment. At the laboratory there is now enough of venom to supply all the demands India is likely to make, and it is now being sent to Germany and America, cobra venom being very useful in experiments connected with the blood.

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