

Miscellaneous.

BROTHER GILES AND THE REFEREES.

The Boston *Commercial Advertiser* gives the following anecdote as having occurred at Charlemont, Mass., some years ago, by way of illustrating the "satisfaction" with which decisions in referee cases are often received:

One Mr. Giles, a man of strong natural sense, and endowed with more than a common share of wit and sarcasm, was frequently before the courts in matters of civil suit. The patience of the Court having become exhausted, they turned Giles's case over to referees. On the occasion to which we refer, the referees were Deacon White, Squire Taylor, and Captain Rudd—three of the most prominent men in town. The case was a perplexing one and occupied considerable time, resulting at last in a decision adverse to Giles. When this decision was reached, and it became necessary to call in the parties, good Deacon White arose and said:

"My friends, we are all aware of the impetuous character of brother Giles, and we must expect to hear much strong denunciation and personal abuse; let us be contented with having done our duty, and receive his abuse in a Christian spirit."

The door was then opened, and brother Giles was called in with the other parties. Deacon White announced the decision thus:

"Brother Giles, we have sat long and patiently on this case; we have endeavored to do our duty; and we have viewed the whole matter—we trust prayerfully—and regret that our sense of justice and right compels us to decide against you."

Then followed the delivering of the papers, the bill of costs, &c., and the referees reclined back in their chairs to await the expected storm. Giles, who, when occasion suited, could be the most polite of gentlemen, stepped back with quiet dignity and ease, lifted his hat and bowed very graciously in acknowledgment of the arduous services of the referees, and retired toward the door—they, meanwhile, feeling an inward satisfaction that the storm had blown over. But, alas! it was a calm before a tempest, and the retiring form of old Giles re-appeared through the half-closed door. Placing his hat upon the table, he thus addressed the referees:

"Gentlemen, I have one duty to perform, unpleasant, but one which, as a philanthropist, I deem necessary."

"Gentlemen, you have suffered thus far through life in not having any one to tell you your real characters. I will do it, that you may hereafter benefit by it."

"First—Deacon White, you are a representative of that class of which the world is full, and which the world despises—you are a hypocrite. You will kneel beside your brother in prayer, and, in the act, rob him of his wallet; you, I despise."

"You, Squire Taylor, belong to another class, not so numerous. You are a professed scoundrel; you cheat a man, and then laugh at him. I admire you, for I always know where to find you; you are open and bold in iniquity."

"And as for you (pointing his finger and looking with ineffable scorn,) Capt. Rudd, you are an old fool, to be nosed about by two such precious scoundrels as Deacon White and Squire Taylor."

DOUBLE ACTION LIGHTNING.—At a meeting of the Paris academy of science, a paper was received from Dr. Bondin on the fulminating power of bodies recently struck by lightning, and of which he adduced two remarkable instances:

On the 30th of June, 1854, a man was killed by lightning near the garden of plants at Paris; the body remained sometime exposed to a pouring rain.—After the storm two soldiers, in attempting to lift up the body, both received two violent shocks. In the other case, which occurred at Zara, Dalmatia, two artillery men who had been ordered to set up again in their former places two telegraphic posts that had been thrown down during a storm, took hold of the telegraphic wire. Although it was two hours after the storm, there was so much electricity left that the men first experienced a few slight shocks, and then were both thrown down on the ground. The hands of both were scorched, and one of them did not even for a time give any signs of life. The other, in attempting to get up, sank down again, and in so doing touched a comrade, who was coming to his assistance, with his elbow. The third man was then thrown down in his turn, ex-

perienced various nervous effects, and his arm was marked with a burn at the spot where he had been touched by the other man's elbow.

SHIPS WRECKED UPON THE COAST OF GREAT BRITAIN.—An English newspaper contains the following: The aggregate of losses sustained by the country every year is frightful to contemplate. Upwards of 2,000 vessels are lost on the average, yearly, on our coasts alone. This number seems enormous; and the reader will wonder what must be the total amount of wrecks throughout the world, if this little island alone is the scene of so much disaster. But it must be remembered that unless ships frequent a coast there can be no wrecks, and it will therefore be seen that it is in consequence of our overwhelming maritime activity, that our shores are so wreck-strewn. When the reader is informed that upon the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland one-third of all the maritime casualties throughout the world occur, he will probably be astonished; nevertheless such is the fact. These isles are the common focus of the navies of the habitable globe; and 1,000,000 ships annually leave and enter our ports. Most of these have to pass shores either rock-bound or fearfully obstructed by outlying sands, the very names of which are sounds of dread to our seamen's ears. With all these traps on the path of the seafaring community, the prevalence of wrecks at certain seasons of the year cannot be wondered at; but it certainly is astonishing that so many collisions, many of which are fatal to both ships, should occur in fine weather and broad daylight. We cannot, for instance, imagine two men crossing a desert, and running up against each other, against their will; yet this is what actually occurs on the ocean desert to ships every day in the year, especially in the bright summer weather. With the vast increase in our steam marine, and with the introduction of the powerful lights which steamers carry, simulating the brilliancy of those in light-houses, we can understand collisions taking place in the night time; but in fair daylight such a cause cannot be assigned as an excuse for running into the very teeth of destruction.

HOW TO PRESERVE A BOUQUET.—A florist of many year's experience sends the following receipt for preserving bouquets to the *American Artisan*:

"When you receive a bouquet, sprinkle it lightly with fresh water; then put it into a vessel containing some soapsuds, which nourish the roots and keep the flowers as good as new. Take the bouquet out of the suds every morning and lay it sideways in fresh water, the stock entering first into the water; keep it there a minute or two, then take it out, and sprinkle the flowers lightly by the hand with pure water. Replace the bouquet in the soapsuds and the flowers will bloom up as fresh as when gathered. The soapsuds need to be changed every third day. By observing these rules, a bouquet may be kept bright and beautiful for at least one month, and will still longer in a very passable state; but the attention to the fair but frail creatures, as directed above, must be strictly observed, or 'the last rose of summer,' will not be 'left blooming alone,' but will speedily perish."

HOW TO RELIEVE THE EYE FROM SPARKS.—A gentleman connected with the press, lately got a cinder in his eye from a locomotive, which caused great pain. He was relieved in half a minute, without further pain, by the following process:

A friend raised the upper lid, on the inner surface of which the mote or speck of dirt will almost invariably be found to adhere; then push the lower lid up over the eye-ball and under the other, letting the upper lid close upon the lower, when the eye-lashes of the latter will brush out the foreign substance almost certainly on the first trial. No pain is experienced, nor can any possible injury be done to the eye by this process, while the common method of pushing a pin-head, wrapped in the corner of a handkerchief, under the lid, causes great pain, and often injury to the eye.

THRIFTINESS OF THE BRITISH ARISTOCRACY.—It is a popular belief, and a true one, that the only thrifty class in England, the only one of which the public expect meanness rather than lavishness in pecuniary matters, is the aristocratic. Tradesmen would rather deal with any of the *nouveaux riches* than the heads of the greatest houses,

and the cadets of those houses are dreaded as the strictest of house-keepers, the most *exigent* of creditors. The son of a builder with a million will pay liberally where the son of a Marquis will haggle and fight and seem oppressed because, unless his accounts are wrong, he has paid for his pennyworth a penny and the fifth of a farthing. Nobody inquires about prices, or higgles about wages, or resists exaction so sternly as the man of £50,000 a year; nobody refuses so determinedly to pay a tutor or a secretary more than the market rate, or has so keen an appreciation of the discount which ought to be allowed for ready money. Nobody is so slow with his bills, or cares so little whether those with whom he deals think him mean or not.—[*Spectator*.]

A MOUNTAIN OF MARBLE.—The Red Bluff (Cal.) *Independent* says:

About one mile from Silverthorn's bridge, which crosses McCloud River, towers to the clouds a gigantic mountain, white as if clad in the livery of a ghost, at the foot of which is located Lee & De Long's marble quarry, from which they take both the white and clouded marble, of as fine quality as that imported from the Green Mountain State. The whole mountain appears to be one vast pile of marble, of quantity sufficient to supply the world. It receives a finish as fine and smooth as glass, or like a polished mirror. The great and remarkable cave, one room of which is one hundred feet in length by forty feet in breadth and seventy feet high, is near this marble quarry. The quarry and cave are only some five miles from Copper City.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—The correspondent of the Boston *Commercial Bulletin* thus describes in a pleasant letter a few of the notabilities of the House of Commons, and expresses his opinions in regard to the conduct of the members while a member is addressing the House: "There were the rough, jaunty, expressive features of Palmerston, which we so long have seen in *Punch*; the earnest eye, firm set mouth, and not graceful limbs of Gladstone; the large, bushy beard, and long, flowing gray hair of Layard, the traveler and the diplomatist; the entirely Jewish phiz, with black, curly hair, protruding nose and yellow complexion of the irrepressible D'Israeli; the Roman nose and peculiarly aristocratic carriage of Sir John Pakington; the honest, open face of the lamented Cobden, and by his side the round head, upright hair and impatient manner of John Bright—these two always together in body as in spirit. Near me, in the Embassadors' gallery, sat the Prince of Wales, accompanied by General Paget, and chatting familiarly with a young dandy nobleman, the Duke of St. Albans. The Prince looked older and stouter than when in America, and wore a light mustache and side whiskers. In the ladies' gallery opposite was his young wife, the Princess Alexandra, a vivacious and spirited little beauty, not yet arrived at womanhood in age or manner * * * Marks of approbation and disapprobation were much more noisy than in our Congress. If a member said something striking, mingled 'Hear hears,' and 'Oh ohs,' greeted him; the one from friends, the other from opponents, and between them a most discordant medley was produced. One poor man essayed to make a speech (perhaps his maiden effort,) but every utterance was drowned in a most provoking scraping of feet. Another, equally unfortunate, was forced to suspend amid the noisy departure of a member out of the House when he rose to speak. On the whole, the manners of the House did not impress me, but the style of its oratory certainly did. It is a riper style than we hear in this country."

THE ENGLISH ELECTIONS.—The complexion of the new English House of Commons is now fully decided. On the evening of July 19th, 579 out of the 658 members of the House had been returned, leaving 79 yet to be heard from. The Liberals already counted 334, or an absolute majority, and their net gain thus far was 20, which, without doubt, will be still more increased. The Tory organs contest the Liberal character of some of the members claimed by the majority; still, they admit a loss of 14.

Nothing can be conceived more ridiculous than the reasons by which Tory organs and orators endeavor to explain away the significance of the result of the election. Some assert that the real strength of the Conservative party in the country and in the Parliament will be as great as before. Others say that corrupt practices can be proved against a sufficient number of elected Liberals

to restore the Tories in Parliament to their former position. Others even go so far as to maintain, in sober earnest, that the districts which have elected Liberals do not represent the true opinion of the people of England. Few will be found among the Tories themselves who will believe in any of these arguments.

We have now returns from all the cities of the United Kingdom, and it is interesting to see how the large constituencies have voted. We cannot better illustrate this fact than by giving, from the Census of 1861, a list of the cities with more than 80,000 inhabitants, together with the number—Liberal or Conservative—members just elected for the House of Commons:

England.	Population in 1861.	Members Lib. Conserv.
*London and suburbs.....	2,803,034	16
Liverpool.....	443,874	2
Manchester.....	338,346	2
Birmingham.....	295,955	2
Leeds.....	207,153	1
Bristol.....	154,008	2
Sheffield.....	185,157	2
Newcastle-on-Tyne.....	109,291	2
Bradford.....	103,218	2
Salford.....	102,414	2
Hull.....	98,904	2
Portsmouth.....	94,546	2
Preston.....	82,961	2
Sunderland.....	80,324	1
Scotland.		
Glasgow.....	329,007	2
Edinburgh.....	160,302	2
Ireland.		
Dublin.....	240,733	1
Belfast.....	119,242	2
Total.....		41

*Comprising Westminster Tower, Hamlets, Southwark, Lambeth, Finsbury and Marylebone.

The cities which we have named number together a population of more than 6,000,000 inhabitants, or about one-fourth of the aggregate population of the United Kingdom. They elect only fifty members, or one-thirteenth of the House of Commons. The other large boroughs, with a population of less than 80,000 inhabitants, have mostly voted the same way; and if the Electoral Districts of England had all the same number of voters, the Tories would therefore scarcely control one-fourth of the members of the House of Commons.

If, in addition to the above facts, we take into consideration the circumstance that the actual voters constitute no more than one-seventh of the adult male population, and that the masses of the disenfranchised people, on this as on every former occasion, were enthusiastic in demonstrations of sympathy for the Liberals and of hatred against the Tories, it is apparent to what an extent the foundation of the power of the English aristocracy has been undermined. A party which is so weak and so hated by the majority of their countrymen as the English Tories has no future.—[*N. Y. Tribune*.]

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