

LETTER FROM ENGLAND.

"Nothing is talked of here but the transactions and behavior of Madame Brinvilliers." So wrote Madame de Sevigne to a friend, in a letter dated Paris, May 1st, 1676. An English lady, writing today might make the same remark in reference to Mrs. Maybrick, though the interest in that unhappy woman is of quite a different kind from the feelings which the paramour and colleague of the infamous Goden St. Croix provoked. The case against the Marchioness of Brinvilliers was too clear and the horrible nature of her numerous crimes were too well exposed to admit of anything besides a shudder that a monster of her sort should have had an existence. But in the case of the daughter of Baroness Roque, the evidence of her guilt is not so clear, the testimony being very conflicting, and it was almost universally anticipated that she would be acquitted. The jury, however, after forty minutes' deliberation, returned a verdict of guilty. The clerk asked the prisoner if she had anything to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon her, whereupon she arose and said, "Whatever my guilt may be in connection with Brierley, I am not guilty of this crime." She was sentenced to be hanged. The jury were hissed from the court room after Mrs. Maybrick's removal from the dock, and the judge was booed by the large mob which had congregated around the courthouse, while his carriage was being driven away. Since the verdict was announced petitions have been pouring in upon the Home Secretary, praying for a reprieve. Indignation meetings are being held all over the country, and resolutions condemnatory of the jury's decision are being passed. These have also been forwarded to the Home Secretary. Strange as it may seem, the petitions are signed very largely by professional men and persons of position of both sexes, the ladies somewhat preponderating in number. From the state of public feeling at present, one would think that Mrs. Maybrick was an indispensable personage on the earth, and that her confinement in gaol was a great loss to England's humanity. There is one thing certain, she will not be hanged on August 26th, as intended. The medical opinion is strong in her favor, that her husband did not die of poison administered by her, but rather that he died naturally, the span of life shortened, probably, by the frequent use of arsenic in his medicines.

There is much circumstantial evidence against her, especially her admitted criminal connection with Brierley; her alleged bad treatment of her husband; and her desire for a judicial separation. Her correspondence, produced in court, made a strong point against her. Whatever may be the outcome of the matter, Mrs. Maybrick's name will long be remembered, and public opinion will continue in her favor as long as she remains under the terrible sentence of death. If the case of toxicology can still be proved against her, her

name will go down to future generations classed with the already long list of female poisoners.

France has also been busy, trying to prove Boulanger the associate of adventurers and persons of disreputable character; as a systematic embezzler of public money; as spending in the promotion of his intrigues and corruptions at least 2,000,000 of francs a year, while his legitimate income was only 12,000 a year; as an ally of communists and anarchists, as well as of imperialists and royalists, and of every desperate, disaffected character he could reach; and as a plotter with his fellow-conspirators of a *coup d'etat* which would have made him military dictator of France. These charges were not proved in the way we are accustomed to see such things done under Uncle Sam. The absence of the accused and his friends was accepted as practically a confession. The charges preferred by the Procureur-General were very full and complete, verifying every count in the indictment. If all these allegations are founded in fact, it would seem to a foreigner that Boulanger was nothing more than a sham hero and a grasping politician; reminding one of the avaricious place-hunting adventurers that follow and disgrace the Territory of Utah.

The Welsh people are watching with considerable interest the progress of the Tithes Bill in the House of Commons. It seems that the government intend to put it through. It is another coercion act. The tithe on many farms exceeds double the rent. The Nonconformists are very indignant over the measure, as they are well aware that it has been got up by the clergy and the lay improprators. They absolutely refuse to support an extravagant and alien church. In fact, some of them have gone so far as to declare publicly their intention of refusing to take part in the presentation of addresses to the Queen during her coming visit to Pale Hall, in the Vale of Llangollen. The Postmaster-General sent an invitation to the Nonconformists to present an address to Her Majesty, and he received the following forcible reply through the columns of the *Banner*: "No, no," says the writer, "this is too much for flesh and blood, and too much also for the Christian spirit of the Bible. We do not know what is intended throughout the counties, but we would feel ourselves humiliated before the whole world, and before our own consciences also, were we to submit to lick the dust of the government and throw our influence in favor of the continuance of the old tyrannical church and her supporters by a quasi-worship of its earthly 'head' on her visit to our counties. If Her Majesty is allowed to go through the counties without being hooted in consequence of the rascality above mentioned she may feel thankful." Of course it is understood the above sentiments do not express the feelings of all Nonconformists, as many of them are preparing to make the visit a pleasant one. Yet the article can be pointed

to as another demonstration of the growing antipathy of the Crown in the hearts of the people.

The present government bears an unenviable reputation for coercion at present; and if they pass the Tithes Bill in its present form it will be another evidence that they are not the friends of peace, nor the promoters of loyalty. The policy in Ireland was a hard one; and through it the name of Mr. Balfour has become a malediction in the mouths of Irishmen. The same principle is recognized in regard to the Tithes Bill, through which the means are sought of imprisoning Nonconformists, "unless the pillaging demands of the old alien church are satisfied." Lord Salisbury's policy and that of his colleagues is one of the cruellest injustice, producing discontent, disaffection and disorder. It is hardly probable that the bill will pass during the present session.

The first Mohammedan Mosque in England has been erected in Woking, Surrey County. It is spoken of as a magnificent building, with a large dome. There are 500,000 Mohammedans and 350,000,000 Christians at present, but the mosques and its votaries are going to try and still further reduce the number of heathens in these islands. In Paris the Buddhists are busy erecting a temple.

The Durham County miners have accepted the very fair offer of ten per cent. increase, and thereby ended what otherwise might have been a very serious strike. The pitmen of Biddick are now on strike, though, over some slight misunderstanding regarding the enginemmen at the pit. It will likely be easily adjusted.

In London there are 2,500 dock laborers on strike. The strike spreading to other parts.

TRAMP.

ENGLAND, Aug. 15, 1889.

IN THE LONDON CONFERENCE.

The following letter from Elder J. Laing appears in the *Millennial Star* of August 19:

"I am thankful to say the health of the Elders at the present time is excellent; and they continue to labor for the spread of the Gospel in a most commendable manner. Their letters to me breathe a spirit of heartfelt joy because of the privileges accorded them to be here as ambassadors of our Lord. You will observe from what I have to report at this time that the brethren are not trying to kill time in idleness; but they are seeking by faithful, energetic labor to shed abroad the light of truth, that the spiritual darkness in which they find their fellowmen enveloped may be dispelled.

"During the month of June, 16,249 tracts were distributed in the conference. Of this number, 4,308 have been given away in our open-air meetings, and the balance have been taken to the homes of the people; 1,477 homes have been visited by the local Priesthood, assisted in some in-