

PROFESSIONAL SKILL IN HIGH LIFE.

It is particularly gratifying to observe that so many of our younger nobles are busying themselves in hard, earnest work of various kinds. We have, for example, Viscount Amberley, a hard-working Member of Parliament, and an able writer, at a very early age. The Marquis of Lorne, who only very recently attained majority, has already pronounced with judgment on the public questions; and we observe the announcement of his first work, "A trip to the tropics." The other day, the youthful Marquis of Bute, in a long letter in the *Times*, gave an account of a recent visit to the Mosque of Hebron, describing that interesting place with a facility of expression and an amount of architectural knowledge certainly altogether unexpected from a peer in his teens. Other noblemen, like Lord Milton set out for wild and unfrequented countries, and endure all manner of hardships in order that they may earn the rewards of the scientific traveler. The late Prince Consort, besides being a good architect was an excellent turner in wood, and a proficient amateur photographer. It is singular, we may here remark, what a fascination photography has for royalty, and how many Princes have become extremely proficient in the art. The latest name added to the roll of royal amateurs is that of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, who has produced, it is said, some magnificent specimens of scenery.

For architectural ability the present Earl of Lovelace is perhaps the most eminent of his class of the day. The Earl's eldest son (Byron's grandson), the late Lord Ockham, inherited his father's notions of the dignity of labor, and carried them much farther. Dropping his title, he entered the shipbuilding yard of Mr. Scott Russell as a common artisan. This young man carried his zeal almost to a monomania. He wanted, he said, to found a great firm—"Lord Ockham & Company, Shipbuilders, Millwall." Unhappily, his career was cut short before he attained the object of his ambition.

Another peer, the Earl of Gathness, has turned his practical knowledge of engineering to good account on different occasions. When the Princess Alexandra arrived in London, the Earl was honored with the direction and personal guidance of the Royal train from Paddington to Windsor. In his own country he has transformed his carriage into a locomotive, and travels the turnpike by steam. Several noblemen, including the Duke of Sutherland and Earl Grosvenor, have gone in heartily for the Fire Brigade—following the example of Lord Craven, of Charles II.'s time, who was a constant attendant at fires. The Prince of Wales has not disdained the helmet and the hose; and, after all, there may be worse ways of spending time than assisting at a fire. By the way, the Duke of Sutherland's mother, the Dowager Duchess, has exhibited decided taste as the designer of carpet patterns, and we believe that Her Grace is not the only clever milliner to be found among our aristocratic dames. Rumor states that the Princess of Wales herself might instruct some of the Court milliners in the mysteries of their own craft. The hon. Mrs. Damer is probably the only instance of a lady in her sphere attaining eminence as a sculptor; it is pretty generally known, however, that many ladies of rank of the present day excel as amateur painters, modellers, musical composers, etc., and their claims in the field of literature are universally acknowledged. With the late Lord Selkirk cookery was a fine art. He showed decided talent in the preparation of simple dishes; while the taste which the late Lord Poltimore displayed in laying out a table earned for himself a name among his contemporaries. Earl Granville and Lord Torrington—the former especially—excel as dairy farmers; Lord Radnor as a breeder of pigs; and the Earl of Essex as a sanitary reformer. It must be regarded as a wholesome sign of the times that the mere dandy and idler is being out, and that work has become the order of the day in the castle as well as in the cottage. [English paper.]

COFFEE.—He who does not see his coffee ground from the bean or berry, may be almost positive that he is drinking from year to year a surrogate in liquid form. In England as a rule, the grocers sell only ground coffee; therefore one is not surprised to see in the pantries of the housekeeper, in the windows of the victualler, or in the apartment of the single mechanic, where a spirit lamp does the cooking, packages bearing inscriptions and vignettes on handsomely prepared envelopes of the article; but the third drink chieftain in the "Finesse Mocha Coffee" as well as the humbler citizen in his "Fine Java Coffee" or the plain mechanic in his "Delicious Family Coffee." If only the grocery was genuine, the damage would be considerable, though much less than it now is. Chicory is now prepared, to our certain knowledge, of oak bark, of old coffee grounds, of finely sifted coal ashes, or else with the sawdust falling from mahogany, and walnut woods as well as with iron black and ground horse leathers; these are a few of the elegantly prepared articles sold under the name of "coffee."

German Coffee very often consists of roasted barley grounds, or rather malt, after it has been exhausted at the breweries. In the same form with the coffee in England, is the sugar purchased in Germany, viz., finely ground, but "Heaven save the mark!" such sugar in ever ninety per cent, of all the shops, the sugar, or some grades of it, is false and poisonous. The articles used are sugar of milk, starch, sand, plaster of Paris, etc. An inferior article of beet sugar is also used to impart the sweetness necessary to the materials used for imitating loaf sugar, and the latter has been known to be prepared of acetate of lead, sulphuric acid, old paper, wood shavings, and even ground butter of the miller and moth species, and a host of anything white.

Journal of Chemistry.

How to save a dying duck—send for a quack doctor.

NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN.—It is a great mistake to suppose that little can be accomplished if a man has reached the age of thirty or forty years. Nine-tenths of clever men have actually exhibited more vigor of intellect at fifty years of age than at forty. Franklin was forty before he began in earnest to study philosophy. The principal of one of the most flourishing colleges in America was a farm servant till he was past the age when most students have completed their collegiate education. Sir Henry Spelman did not begin the study of science until he was between fifty and sixty years of age. Greek was the first foreign language which Cato, the celebrated Roman censor, acquired, and he did so in his old age. Alder, whose writing has wrought a revolution in the dramatic literature of Italy, was left without a father in his infancy, and wasted early years. John Ogilby, the author of poetical translations of Virgil and Homer, began to study Latin when considerably above forty years of age, and Greek when in his fifty-fourth. Boetio, one of the most illustrious writers that ever appeared in Italy, suffered nearly half of his life to pass without improvement. Handel was forty-eight before he published any of his great works. Dr. Thomas Arnold, of Rugby, learned German at forty, in order that he might read Neibuhr in the original. Let these examples tell upon your character and invigorate and cheer you in your undertakings.

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