

How Queen Victoria Entertains.

I need not tell you how simple, plain and perfectly English and womanly are the habits and tastes of the Queen. The Prince of Wales, socially, is nothing more than a rich, sporting, pleasure-loving squire. The style of entertainment at the palace, for example, is quite like that you would receive at the house of the Duke of Sutherland or the Duke of Westminster. Nay, I have even heard the complaint hinted that when the Queen entertains officials at dinner, the viands are not as various or as well served as at any ordinary aristocratic gentleman's house. The Queen certainly sets an example of economy to her upper-class subjects. When she comes to London for the early parliamentary season, her favorite method of dispensing hospitality is to give garden parties and "breakfasts" in Buckingham Palace Gardens, or in the private garden of Windsor Castle. Invitations to these are, of course, much sought for, because they are the most select; there you come directly in contact with royalty, and see it more nearly and familiarly than if you dined with the Queen in the castle. When you are conducted to the garden by one of the scarlet flunkies of majesty, said flunky is about the only visible hint there is of its being a royal party. You see pretty tents and canvas pavilions disposed here and there under the oaks, on the velvety lawn, or by the side of the pretty miniature lake. If this is in the Buckingham Palace Garden, which is in the very centre of fashionable West-end London, the moment you have passed behind the high wall which shuts it out from St. James' Park on one side and Grosvenor place on the other, you would never guess that you were in the midst of the city. The surroundings are more exquisitely and most illusorily rural. You see a number of gentlemen and ladies, elegantly dressed, standing about in groups, or partaking of the by no means sumptuous fare which is being served without ceremony in the tents. The scene is cheerful, elegant, *bon ton*, easy and unrestrained. You catch a glimpse of the Queen, dressed in black, with here and there a relief in rich white lace, but with no suspicion of tinsel or gaudiness about her; a plain lady, of substantial proportions, in the prime of life, the center of a respectful but by no means awed or abashed circle; receiving those whom she recognizes with a slight smile and a pleasant word, and the presentation of those whom she does not know with a slight bow. There are faces here familiar to you in the windows of the print shops—noblemen, statesmen, ministers, ambassadors, leaders of society and court fashion; but there is little or no pretension of manner or carriage. You are surprised above all at the simplicity, the elegant commonplace of the whole thing. You may jostle Wales, or the Russian ambassador, or the Lord Chief Justice, without being in the least aware of the fact. The gentleman, who, seeing you are a stranger, asks you if you will not have a sandwich and cup of coffee, may be a fashionable artist or a provincial mayor, and may be the Duke of Teck. If perchance you have been at a *fete champetre* at some great country house—say at Chatsworth or Belvoir—you say to yourself that this differs in no striking respect from it, unless indeed it differs by its lesser brilliancy and its more suggestive simplicity. And this is the striking characteristic of modern English royal life. There is a great change even from Gentleman George's time. That padded and painted old dandy never appeared as a host without being bedizened with stars and laces. To be sure, there are nowadays grand occasions, like drawing-rooms, levees, openings of Parliament, thanksgiving pageants in St. Paul's, and so on, when majesty assumes all the trappings and insignia of its rank. But these are the rare exceptions—rarer to royalty than our own birth-day and patriotic anniversaries—to the ordinary routine of royal life.—*London Correspondence Boston Post.*

FEMALE INTEMPERANCE.—The New York correspondent of the *Utica Herald* furnishes the following "wholesale" statements: The play actresses, ballet performers, and all the female attaches of the theatre, drink—because without this stimulus they could not go

through the painful and laborious performance of their parts. The work of such a performer is sufficiently exhausting in itself, and then the green-room and purloins of a theatre are foul with gas and other poisons, so that it is often difficult to breathe. Hence strong drink is resorted to. It is said of the little fairies of the ballet that each has her drink before going on the stage. It is also said that at least a gallon of whisky is drunk by the attaches of some theatres every night. The green-room closet is always well stocked, and if a girl gives signs of fainting, the bottle is resorted to. In addition to this, it is well known that many of the sewing girls drink under the plea of necessity. They labor so hard and for such long hours, and so often in rooms deficient in ventilation, that they demand a stimulus. I am sorry to say that another class, which has no such excuse, is also addicted to drink, but not of so vulgar a character. These are the Broadway ladies, who, while out shopping, are wont to visit fashionable lunch rooms. These rooms are not showy establishments. They have, on the other hand, a modest appearance, suitable for ladies only, but at the request of the fair customers, there is, along with the slice of cake or dish of oysters, the fatal wine bottle. There is a great deal of intemperance among the ladies of the Fifth Avenue. A friend of mine mentions seeing in a first-class mansion the mistress of the house holding on to a post at the foot of the stairs, unable to advance or retreat.

Irrigating a Desert.

SENATOR JONES' SCHEME FOR RECLAIMING OR SUBMERGING THE GREAT COLORADO DESERT.

A Washington correspondent, under date of March 7th, writes as follows concerning the Colorado desert reclamation project: Senator Jones of Nevada has received full reports of the results of scientific explorations made at the expense of himself and a private citizen of California (William S. Chapman) last summer, for the purpose of ascertaining the practicability of reclaiming or submerging the Great Colorado desert by turning into it the waters of the Colorado river or the Gulf of California. The river report of I. C. James, the engineer who conducted the expedition, and an elaborate commentary upon it by R. E. Stretch, an eminent civil engineer of San Francisco, furnish the following interesting information: The exploration shows that the great portion of the Colorado desert, the Mojave valley and Death valley, which lie north of it, are from forty to one hundred feet below the level of the sea, and that this great desert, stretching from Lower California to Inyo county, in the State of California, and from the base of the Coast Range Mountains to the Colorado river, comprising an area about 300 miles long by 150 wide, may be converted into a chain of lakes or irrigated by the method above mentioned; and also, that a large portion of this "desert" really consists of extremely fertile soil, being a deep alluvium susceptible of the highest cultivation. It is further shown that the prevalence of what are known as "sand storms," and hot, desiccating winds, and the deficient rainfall—the evils suffered by the surrounding country and as far north as the Tulare valley in California—are directly traceable to the existence of this desert, from which, as from a great furnace, there constantly rises, in the summer time, a vast volume of heated air without appreciable humidity. Thus the moisture of the rain-bearing clouds which are blown northerly during the summer months from the Gulf of California are dispatched as soon as they reach the borders of this superheated region, and prevented from reaching the dry but fertile plains of California beyond. The shells found on the surface of this desert prove that it has been at one time the bed of a sea, and at a subsequent period the bed of a fresh water lake. The shore lines of both sea and lake can yet be seen and recognized in many places, and Mr. Stretch expresses the opinion that the Aztec civilization of the adjacent region in Arizona (of which there are so many traces came to an end in consequence of the climatic changes caused by the evaporation of these vast lakes

in Southern California after the Colorado river had cut down its bed in the great canon so deep that the course was diverted at Colville (Callville) to a southerly direction.

The question is suggested whether these desert lands cannot be reclaimed by irrigation, and thus saved instead of being totally submerged, as it is considered certain that covering them with vegetation would tend to prevent the evaporation of moisture, and at the same time act as a precipitant for whatever moisture the atmosphere might carry; or whether both plans might not be combined.

Senator Jones expresses the opinion that, although either course would involve large expenditures of money, the matter is of such public interest as to be worthy of investigation by the government, which alone has the necessary resources and appliances at command for the thorough examination of the subject. If by such an examination, the feasibility of the work should be demonstrated, private capital might be found to undertake it. He therefore purposes bringing the matter to the attention of Congress with a view to having a survey made by the government.—*Ex.*

Official Dishonesty—Its Cause and Cure.

The prevalence of corruption and dishonesty, both in public office and private business, has become a trite theme, and mere complaints on the subject, which do not pretend to investigate causes or suggest remedies, have grown wearisome. There are many to whom it seems never to have occurred that there must be a definite and powerful operating cause for an evil so general, and who keep on complaining and lamenting about it, as if they thought it could be removed by mere declamatory attacks from the rostrum and pulpit. There is also a very general disposition to assume that the men whose integrity fails in positions of trust are more lax in their principles than the mass of the community. But the fact is, that one of the chief causes of dishonesty in official personages is the prevailing demoralization of public opinion.

Whatever we may say about it, the American people, taken as a whole, respect wealth and the kind of success connected with wealth more than they respect anything else. A tremendous change has been going on in the world, more particularly in the United States, since the earlier administrations of our government.

A certain class of sentiments which tend to restrain men occupying conspicuous positions from doing anything liable to disgrace them in the eyes of their fellow-men, has everywhere weakened. The age has grown terribly cynical, and has lost not only all faith in many things that our grandfathers believed in, but all reverence for many things which they held sacred. This has been the consequence, in part, of a vast increase of knowledge in certain directions, which is not balanced by a proportionate increase in other directions; in part, it is the result of the growth of the critical and analytical spirit. Our grandfathers and great grandfathers had a genuine belief in such things as patriotism, public spirit, public virtue; and they had a genuine reverence for public benefactors, for men who had rendered distinguished public services, and for men of high character and pure lives generally. A good deal of this has died out with hero-worship. If we had another president in every respect as good as Washington, he would not receive from the American people the kind of homage Washington received. The Fourth of July has lost much of its gloss, and the Fourth of July orations to which our ancestors listened with enthusiasm, make us laugh. In many respects our forefathers seem like children to the men and women of this generation. We understand human nature better than they did, and yet we act and talk with reference to corruption in office precisely as if we retained their simple belief in disinterested patriotism and in perfect characters altogether inaccessible to temptation.

We recognize it as a general law of human nature that opportunity conspiring with great temptation will prove too strong for the virtue of the average man; and yet we profess to be astonished and shocked when we hear of a person placed

in a position where he has the handling of large sums of money, with no efficient check upon him, proving a defaulter when he finds himself in a desperate situation from which the only means of escape seemed to be by the appropriation of funds not his own. Yet there is really no reason for surprise at such occurrences in the United States at this day, and in fact they do not affect us with genuine surprise. Public opinion is lax in its view of such delinquencies. They seldom meet with rigorous punishment. Except in very gross cases they do not affect the social position of the guilty party.

These are some of the causes of the evil, and the statement of the causes indicates the cure.

First, a strict system of checks and balances, and a vigilant supervision would effect much by diminishing the opportunity.

Second, prompt and severe punishment of a kind to bring disgrace offers a weighty counterpoise to temptation. If the government defaulters and others met with the same swift and terrible punishment dealt out to them in most of the European countries, defalcations would soon become as rare here as they are in Prussia or in France.

Third, if public opinion could be so elevated and purified that it would really respect high character and unblemished integrity more than wealth and success, the natural love of approbation would stimulate men to struggle as earnestly to win and maintain a good name as they now struggle by any means and at all hazards to win the one thing which, in the existing stage of American civilization, is more powerful and more deferred to than any other—riches.—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

BEHIND THE SCENES.—Sothorn, in an interview in *After-Dinner*, say—"Does acting tell on me? Yes, indeed, it does. Until within the last two years I have never given myself more than four weeks' rest in a year. I have noticed the wear and tear on my constitution because my labors are heavier than the public know anything about. I will give the work of one day when there is a matinee. I perhaps have a scenic and property rehearsal at nine o'clock; a company rehearsal at ten o'clock, and this rehearsal lasts until one o'clock; I have half an hour for lunch; go on the stage at two o'clock, and act till half-past four; I dine at five; from six to seven rest; at eight o'clock on the stage again; the performance is over at ten and a half or a quarter of eleven; and then I am so weary that after a light supper I am compelled to go at once to bed. In my early days, when the star actor had to write out his own part, instead of buying printed books, I have frequently written and studied twelve long parts a week, and each of these were seven lengths, making an aggregate of twelve times three hundred and eight lines of fresh matter per week. This was to arrive at the mere question of getting the words into my head; the analysis of the character being another thing to do afterwards. I have had to study all day when I was not rehearsing or eating, and to go straight home from the theatre at night and stay up till three and four and five in the morning; I have been obliged to get up at eight o'clock the same morning, read my parts over again, and go to a rehearsal at ten o'clock. I got my memory so well cultivated that I at last would get my wife to read through a long farce, just repeating the long speeches twice, without ever having seen the words myself, and got through it actually every word."

CURE FOR CORNS.—The safest, the most accessible, and the most efficient cure of a corn on the toe, says *Hall's Journal of Health*, is to double a piece of thick, soft buckskin, cut a hole in it large enough to receive the corn, and bind it around the toe. If in addition to this the foot is soaked in warm water for five or more minutes every night and morning, and a few drops of sweet oil or other oily substance, are patiently rubbed in on the end after soaking, the corn will almost infallibly become loose enough in a few days to be easily picked out with a finger nail. This saves the necessity of paring the corn, which operation has sometimes been followed by painful and dangerous symptoms. If the corn becomes inconvenient again, repeat the process at once.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Judicial Affairs in Utah in Early Times.

SALT LAKE CITY,
April 9th, 1874.

Editor Deseret News:

SIR—In my letter of the 18th of March, 1874, I gave a copy of my letter to the Honorable Elisha Whittlesey, dated July 10, 1852. In that letter I used the following language—

"In my letter, to which yours was an answer, you will observe that I asked what the practice of the United States was law in relation to the matters contained in the letter. Though I do not know of any different from what you suggested and what I have now suggested, you can see many good reasons why the costs of the Territorial Courts should be paid by Congress. I look upon this city as an important point in the overland route to California and Oregon, and it seems others think so too; certain it is that three-fourths of all the litigation in our courts arises out of difficulties happening between emigrants themselves, and between emigrants and 'Mormons' here. Now if the territory must furnish courts for settling these matters and defraying all their expenses, it will, in my opinion, operate very unjustly. I can not see why the United States should not furnish courts for settling the difficulties arising out of the emigration through here; certainly there is no moral obligation resting on this people to furnish the means at their own expense of settling such difficulties."

In my other letters I have stated in substance that at that time the people here were poor and numbered only about 11,000, and that the Territory, as defined in the Organic law, extended over a country of say about 1,000 by about 800 miles, in which the white settlements were sparse, and that it contained many Indian tribes, sometimes hostile. This rendered certain duties of the Territory onerous. This will explain why I wrote a letter to Mr. Whittlesey, under date of February 8th, 1853, a perusal of which will show that I expressly called the attention of the government of the United States to the Probate criminal and civil jurisdiction law. If that be wrong, the officers of the United States are as much to blame about it as our legislature. That letter is as follows—

"GREAT SALT LAKE CITY,
February 8, 1853.

"To the Hon. Elisha Whittlesey,
Compt., &c.

"Sir—Not having been well informed, nor having the necessary library to inform myself in relation to the usage and practice of the United States in paying costs of the United States courts sitting in the Territories, I, under date of February 14 of last year, wrote you on the subject, to which you replied under date of April 20, and I again wrote under date of July 10. These letters no doubt you have on file for future reference.

"After the receipt of yours I, in the taxation and certifying of costs, was governed by its principles, though, as I indicated to you in my letter of July 10, I had taken a different view of the matters, in some respects, from what you had written.

"In so doing, there were some costs which remained unpaid, owing to the fact that the Legislative Assembly had not seen fit to pass any fee bill, nor to provide any method of liquidating and paying them.

"To enable you to fully understand the present situation of things, before proceeding further, I will inform you that the Legislative Assembly passed an act, approved October 4th, 1851, authorizing and requiring me, for a limited time, to hold all the courts in the Territory, but said nothing about jurisdiction, appellate or original. (See Utah Laws, p. 37.)

"February 4, 1852, another act was approved, giving jurisdiction to the district courts in all cases, civil and criminal, also in chancery. (See *ib.*, p. 38, sec. 2.) The same law gave jurisdiction to the probate courts, civil and criminal, also in chancery. (See *ib.*, p. 43, sec. 36.) An act was approved March 3rd, 1852, providing for the appointment of a Territorial Marshal, Attorney General and District Attorneys, to attend to legal business in the district courts when the Territory