

cial Correspondence

ONDON, Feb. 17 .- His royal highness, the Prince of Wales, sir to the British throne and future ruler-in name at leastgreatest empire the world ever is owner of the worst slums on, which is equivalent to sayworst in the world. Vermin indisease ridden and yielding a te in excess of the rest of the y, the houses of this quarter for human habitation. Their as which are number and the counter-conterparts would not be counter-anced for a moment in any American div, and anything approaching them would be the signal for a public outery ind would endanger the life of the gov-ernment in power. Rents are excessive, der to obtain them eight, tel velve people are erowded into ooms. Men, women and children herded promiscuously together at compelling a condition of affairs which only the pen of a Zola could out of these sinks of human nd degradation the prince, through the Duchy of Cornwall, receives a yearly mome approaching \$350,000. The amount was less in former years, when the district was a fairer place and more suited to human habitation, but as consuited to human habitation, but as con-ditions grew worse, buildings older and more dilapidated and sunshine more scarce as the result of the encroaching of immense factories, rents increased and the amount of "blood money" wrung from the inmates of this hell hele grew by leaps and bounds. Today it enables its recipient to live in unluxury, without a care in the with a hundred servants to dance attendance upon him and with-out the suspicion of duties, except to submit to being entertained by social

amounts to the enormous sum of \$695.-000 a year, half of which goes into his private pocket; and though all of this does not come from London slume, it helps materially to swell the exchequer. His Duchy of Cornwall revenue is quito outside the government grant from the civil list of \$200.000 per annum which his royal highness receives simply for being prince, or of the \$180.006 a year which his children receives for having him as their father, or of the \$50000 a year which the Princes of Wales gets for being his wife. The total annual reve-nue of the Prince of Wales and his family, including the Duchy of Corn-wall gross takings, comes to the neut little sum of \$1,125,000 a year. The slums of the Prince of Wales are just across Waterloo Bridge—the fam-ous "Bridge of Sighs" inmortalized by Hood—and only about ten minutes walk from the Strand. It is owing to its nearness to the center of London's theologe activity that this thereful

its nearness to the center of London' throbbing activity that this propert brings comparatively high rents, though there are peculiar reasons attached to the estate itself which make it even a

royal responsibility does not ap-n these particular cases. On the band, it must not be forgotten no Prince of Wales ever has d any strenuous "kick" over the hiton of his slum property, or his slum property, or sly to bring about a ange for the better.

ange for the better. Travelers acquainted with such eitles Nopies and Marsuiles—where the uns are said to be practically "the mit"—say that certain moks and cor-ers of the Prince of Wales' London operty are as bad, if not worse, For stance, there is one spot called Salu-tion Court, which as a slum pure and mule ranks with the most terrible. ranks with the most terrible ple ranks with the most terrible, is narrow, dingy, dirty, rat-infested 1 unsanitary, Most of the houses two-storied shuntles, built about years ago. They are totally des-the of any of these "conveniences" leh make life worth living. The ma are fighted by little square s of what appears at one time to been glass, but which has lost semblance to that article owing incrustation of the grime of

tion, close by. As there is only one small casement window in this room, which cannot be opened owing to the rusting of the hinges, the ventilation is of a somewhat vague description. DIRE DENS OF FILTH.

DIRE DENS OF FILTH. Besides Salutation court—which doubt-less bears that name from the noted salubrity of the locality—another choice spot on the Prince of Wales' London estate is Cornwall place. Hors one is struck with the peculiar fact that all the houses face on a little space completely inclosed by big fac-tories and wood yards, stacked high with timber. Gustave Dore would have delighted to draw Cornwall Place as an filustration of Dante's Inferno, Slatternly, beer-sodden, vice enslaved women infest the buildings which face on this court, while hosts of anaemic, wretched, shoeless and almost naked children play in the filth and garbage children play in the filth and garbage that block the entrance to the nar-row passageway leading down into this den of human misery. All the so-called buildings-or, ra-

Cornwall place, are two-storied affairs, built more than a hundred years ago. If possible, they are in a worse stage of decomposition

tion-particularly when it comes to the children born and brought up in these

Infernal surroundings. By a curious misapplication of char-ity, a splendid hospital has been raised on this property at the corner of Waterloo road and Stanford street. The Prince of Wales is one of the patrons of this noble institution. One of the local doctors occurnty council of the local doctors a county council public health inspector who recently showed the writer over the duchy property, remarked:

RENT ROLL BLINDNESS.

"It is all very well for the Prince to rive money to the Royal Waterloo cospital, but it seems to me his first should be directed toward era

In Southwark, where the slum pro-rty of Duchy of Cornwall is situatthe death rate is more than 29 per cent, whereas in Hampstead and the West End of London generally it cent, whereas in Hampstead and the West End of London generally it averages from 10 to 12 per cent, In-cant mortality here, according to the London County Council physicians, is something like 219 per 1,000; while normality before constitution infant mortality in a health esidential section is only

200. These frightful conditions are course, due to overcrowding in Duchy of Conwall houses, their apidated state, and the unsanitary ture of the district.

ORGIES IN" DELECTABLE DUCHY."

inty should be directed toward eradi-sating—root and branch—the terrible volts of the districts which he ownis ind which keep the heapital full of he haspital usually are in a most offiable condition. The Prince of Wales is no doubt he sincerely sympathizes with their condition. There is, how-viver, a péculiar blindness which makes i difficult for one to look behind such ever, a percentar of manager which such a enormous rent roll as the Prince is way promptly into the saloon a control of the prince enjoys from their misery." It is a significant fact that for some years rents from the "delectable indit to get laws passed restraining it is in and to get is of women and children to the London property came the visits of women and children to the London property came of the duchy.

HISTORY OF PRINCIPALITY

The Duchy of Cornwalt is not stirrely by the Prince of Wales, t ay a keeper of the privy scal, as any general and various "state" arises. They also have their law principal place

the estate itself which make it even a greater money maker than most other London real estates. Most of the Lon-don property belonging to the Duchy of Cornwall is what is known in England as "unrestricted." That is, it can be let to anyone, quite regardless of charac-tor. Houses are let at exorbitant rents for the reason that no references are required, "no questions asked." Rent is mostly paid in advance, and there is considerable competition for the houses. Though police raids do occasionally figconsiderable competition for the houses. Though police raids do occasionally fig-ure in the local magistrate's court. Hey are of a perfunctory nature. It may be recalled that in Stead's terrible book, "A Maiden Tribute to Modern Baby-lon," dealing with the underworld of London and the white slave traffic, this district figured prominently.

RAT INFESTED SHANTLES.

submit to being entertained by social failubers" who have reached the charmed royal circle, or the greater number who are on the way and have the wherewithal to pave the way with gold. MILLION IN REVENUE. His gross revenue from the duchy leaves, over which he is said to be un-

TWELVE IN ONE ROOM.

TWELVE IN ONE ROOM. Restrictions as to the number of persons allowed in these houses are extremely elastic, and consequently from nine to twelve persons per room is nothing unusual. Though only the very poorest occupy Salutation court, the rents are extremely high. As there are no legal restrictions as lo the number of persons who may occu-by the rooms, the "proprietor" of a shanty is expected to get the rent somehow, and the somehow usually is a very degraded form of human in-dustry. Several of the rooms in these houses have even double sets of ten-ants: that is, those who occupy the rooms in the day time and these who sheep there at night, and, of course,

than those of Salutation court. Most of the cottages are fronted by little brokendown wooden fences, surround-ing patches of ground that once were two-by-four gardens. Instead of gar-dens now, however, each fence inclos-es a stone paved space devoted to the offices of the washtub. On a cold, raw winter day when the writer vis-ited this place, half-clad babies were nitting on the stones of these little in

altting on the stones of these little in-closed spaces, crying from cold." Boubtless the royal owner of these disceptiable slums would plead ignor-ance of the conditions if directly charged with responsibility, but he is suraly not ignorant of the fact that room is slept in by three and those who sheep there at night, and, of rourse, for these excellent conveniences high rents have to be charged. To give a into his private purse from the Lon-in a Salutation court shanty is occu-pled by two married couples at night, whereas, in the day time the same room is slept in by three railway

ducy" brought in only about two-thirds of their present sum, but when King Edward was Duke of Cornwall— King Edward was place of Cornwall— before the death of Queen Victoria— he managed the property so well that ne brought it up from \$560,000 to \$560,000 a year, and since the corona-tion rents from the duchy have jump-ed to \$695,000. This indicates that whataver reforms have been carried out—it any—have not been in the di-raction or reducing routs.

Local housing cuttorities frequent-ly have called attention to conditions of overcrowding in this district. For nstance, there are 184 houses per tore, whereas souldary experts date hat 54 houses per area should be the indi. Within the area of about one and a half square miles there are 208, 500 people, and the avorage "expecta-tion of life" is from eight to aksteen years shorter than in the healthy sec-

keepers bettomiess till. Several re-forming authorities have tried in Eng-land to get iaws passed restraining the visits of women and children to the saleons, but, so far, nothing has been done. On Saturday mikhts in Cornwall place, Salutation court, Bond street and in other haunts of the "delectable duchy," you may witness orgies of beerifie giorification in which the whole neighborhood participates. Attempts to bring about reforms in the duchy district always have been met with the statement that "noth-ing can be done until the leases ex-nire." This is not altogether true, In discussing this point a tocal bound street who knows the conditions well sale. "The Prince of Wales, with his pow-erful influence, easily could exert suffi-cient moral suasion on the denissen of the district – and. If not, on his own apents who collect the rents—to bring about a radical change, at least with reference to the children who are the victims of theme crying evils. Local

American Society Women Set Hot Pace in London

Special Correspondance.

ONDON, Feb. 17-American women are taking time by the forelock as several of them have already announced what they intend to do directly the seasonspens, As a matter of fact, save for a few political functions which are on the tapls, the only galeties discussed are thuso being organized by hostesses from the "other side," The Hon. Mrs. Charles Lawrence, who was Catherine Samer of New York, so prominent a figure in philanthropy and so in-Umite a friend of Princess Christian, Is to do a great deal socially this spring, she is quite a grand dame, wente bitture hats and wonderful jewels. When first Princess Christian met her, her royal highness remarked to a frited that she was somewhat "arraid of her grand manner." But now they are fast friends and the other day. Min. Charles Lawrence resigned her presidency of the Royal hospital at Pathey in favor of the princess as alle suid she felt "a royal name would to more helpful for the Institution."

have Stratford House under considera

tion. Only a millionaire could keep up properly this magnificent London palace, which should meet the requirements of Mrs. Gould in every way Her American friends here credit he with the intention of giving a ball for her daughter Marjorie in London that will surpass anything we have ever seen. You have no notion of the excitement Majorio's coming is causing We love an American girl who is at to fun, who is unconventional and before all things, matural if report speaks truly, Marioria Gould is up to all sorts of pranks. Consequently we

are just dying to see her. It was the pranks of Margaretta Drexel which have made her the immense success ihe b MRS. DREXEL CONNOISSIOR.

MRS. DREXEL CONNOISSED Mrs. Anthony Drexel's house in Grossenar Square has hay no end of trouble. It is a an when people have to buil furniture, tapestriss and bricas's certain periods so that they we clash with each other. Like well-known American women so brought her knowledge of artistic to a fine point and no is commission agent, however a tened, can puzzle her in regard to

ea a unique collection of musical in-struments. Some priceless specimens no longer in use have been obtained by Mrz. Drexel for it. The musicians' guiltery where the band will be station-ed at the builts which are to be given during the season is the largest in any grivate house in London it over-looks the great muchle staticase and the ball.

GIVES DAINTY PRESENTS.

No one has over given more beauth of cotfilions than Mrs. Drexol, many the figures having been designed hor, while the presents have been many instances pail gonis, gold and onled cigarctic cases and the like, thinks nothing of spending \$5,000 the dainty tribes with which she sants her friends at these gather-is. Is it any sonder that Auglo-arican ateksty is looking forwards becaust excitoment to her much koenset excitement to her much of balls in the immediate fu-

The first is fixed for the end of The time is taken for the circl of farch or the beginning of April, and is expected that it will be the most efflicat affair of the earlier part of a sensor. Mirs. Anthony Drevel has siv one fault as a holices. She is

taiv one fault as a holices. She is inclined to overcrowd her parties, is perdonable weakness which incredy proves that the is an exceedingly kind hearted woman. We are hold that there are crowds of beautiful Yankes debutantes counting even this meason but I venture to predict that Marguretts Drexel will hold her own among the lot. She is undeubially not only the pretiven but the most popular American art that ever an-American girl that ever ap-on the social horizon of London nines Gladge Desnon charmed in

The has, however, at the request of the commission agent, however soliding the commission charmed used is a provide the commission agent, however soliding all. TURNS & ROTH-HILD DOWN. Singing in the tack row of the previous sums to this pet charity or the backed players. There are our propose is provided to be applied at the period available to be applied at the period available to be applied by the back of the period available to be applied by the back of the period available to be applied by the back of the period available to be applied by the back of the period available to be applied by the back of the period available to be applied by the back of the period available to be applied by the back of the period available to be applied by the back of the period available to be applied by the back of the period available to be applied by the back of the period available to be applied by the back of the period available to be applied by the back of the period available to be applied by the back of the period available to be applied by the period available to be applied by the period by the per Binging in the tack row of the cherus of any of our number plays here is one of the most bountiful young American strin it is possible to con-cave. She has its face of a Ma-donia, but with more chiracter; her yess are, as an enthusiantic youth ex-pressed it to me, "the only real violat syste one has over new and her lashes

ed a unique collection of musical in- | She is as good as she is beautiful and | and a holisver in their influence. Both she thinks of but one man in the world, a struggling young artist with ambi-tion but no name. In most London theaters the "masher" is not admitted behind the scenes. At one very im-portant one, however, Alfred de Roths-child has carte blanche to come and

go as he pleases. He is a great patron of the arts and a genuine lover of mu-eic as well as of the beautiful and he likes to have a chat with any per-former, man or woman, who interest ormer, man or woman, who interest im. Not infrequently he asks ha a dozen of the attletes to support. The athor night he was giving a festivity of the kind and he requested the beau-tiful young American to make one of the gathering, after, he it understood, he had been primented to her in the mercentiodus fashion by the mercene . female attendant.

be had been presented to her in the niest orthodox fashion by the manager. But with the air of a queen the Amer-tean looked the best catch in London, up and down and frigidly declined. It is probably the first time to his fife the great mancier found himself re-fused a request by any woman and it seems the experience was hoved and will be memorable. "I don't accept hearing the memorable. I don't accept will be memorable. "I don't accept hospitality from men I do not know," mid the madanua. "It is perfectly ridiculaus that you have not a halo round your head," was the only com-ment youchsafed by the millionaire.

AS TO MES. VANDERBILT.

As TO MRS, VANDERBILT, No wreman is more sought after on the Riviana this whiter than Mrs. French Yanderbilt, She has the most extraordinary vogue which it is a little difficult to account for. Very pretty she cortainly is, and dressed faultless-ly, but far more strikingly heautiful women surround her and procise no homage whatsoever. Some attribute Mrs. Vanderbill's powers of attraction to her very magnetic personality. Oth-ers any abre carries about with her a Chinese charin which has the most ag-traordinary occult power—an influence traordinary occult power-an influence so great that it is said to reach her late husband who is credited with the burning desire to get his wife back again. All this may be pureat non-sonae, but with many it gains cra-dence, Certain it is that Mrs. French Vanderbill is. like her elster, Lady Cheylesmore, a great lover of charms

have all sorts of masseds from birth-stones to statuettes of gaints. Will Mrs. Vanderbilt re-marry? This

Will Mra. Vanderbilt re-marry? This is the question ou the lips of all her friends. She shows, so far, no defi-nite preference for anyone, She stands as a queen among courtiers and like all these willy American nocicity wo-nuen, she is ne cardefully obsperoned as a debutante. This fact is emi-nomity annising to English women, who in the first instance, were taught to despise the obsperiod by their trans-ation is statistic. Another countple of the Ferry much chaperoned married woman is the Duchess of Mariberough. Mrs. Marshall Feld, Jr., too, before her socond marriage, would not cross the attendant.

LADY MARY.

OPEN AIR SCHOOLS.

London is experimenting with open "hey are for pass shildren, is from June 1 to Oct. 31,

y are proving a success. segunice was made last sum-d was pur-ly experimental. The was purely experimental. The as made a grant of £40 to see thing worked. They have ha-the appropriation for next to £2,000 and three schools assurption

estublished, school will accommodate 75 divided into three classes of The stuff etil consist of ad teacher, three socialani, marso, a cook and helper

nd a juritor. (if course there are buildings which re complet a part of each day, as anther, but indees the weather is copleasity had almost all the time is peut in the open air. A biasit tourd a an easel is set up on the grass and he obsize of the puptle are grouped effore it.

and spend Tork Sun.

Austrian Society Dances In a Subterranean Ballroom

Special Corri

RACOW, Feb. 17.-In a ball room C out out of solid salt rock, adlighted with cambulabra, which, though they bolk like work of the fine est crysis), are much of the much walno material, the flower of the Ausrian aristocracy have just held a

memorable ball. The affair took place in the biggest and rinbest sait mine

infiners take poster there tokaning the 100 infiners engaged in the mine are found of damping, but the greats in this case were not minure but boombers of some of the greatest fermilies in Austria who thought to a good into to follow the infiners' example and give a ball inderground instead of in one of their own miners.

The mine manists of soven floors or Litis

was that overything, from the walls in the candlesticks, isoked like crystal, producing the effect of counties dia-monds where the light fell on it. Again the impress conveyed muy be compared to that of a gigantic ice palace, bril-liantly lighted up and sprinkled with a thin layer of whitest snow. The ant floor forms an ideal one for dations to brilliantly is it patished.

LIFE IS UNDERGROUND.

But the mine of Vieliczka contains in the original and information was been of the second of "Hours," keeps at an average of 1 degreest Reasons, which is that of a waven spring this. The campor of the billed is attuated proceeding in the so-cuffed. "Count Geluciarwaki's Counci," actick Learns, and the solution of the which forms a railway station in allowe ground to do their marketing dome and show their bargades, shild rear play about in the shade of the gravities and soft houts in the gravit

analysis of the pupils are granted and the grantes of princes who, hidden in the provided pupils of state who hidden in the service mathematics, nature state are state who hidden in the service mathematics of state who hidden in the provided pupils of state who hidden in the service mathematics of the molecure which runs from the provided in the service mathematics of the molecure which is state from the ball run is defined in the service mathematics is and service mathematics of the service which is state who hidden in the service mathematics of the molecure which is state from the ball run is the service mathematics of state which is state who hidden in the service mathematics of the molecure which runs from is service which is state who hidden in the service mathematics of the molecure which runs from is service which is service who hidden in the service mathematics of the molecure which is service mathematics because the sale found there is of the mathematics of service is service which is service who hidden in the service is service who hidden is the service is the service is service who hidden is the service is service is service who hidden is the service is service who hidden is the service is the se