

## THE ARLINGTON ESTATE.

Petition of Mrs. M. A. R. Lee—The Argument For and Against Her Claim.

To the Editor of the New York Times:

As a staunch Republican, I claim the privilege of calling public attention to the petition of Mrs. M. A. R. Lee, which is now under consideration by the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary. In this petition Mrs. Lee prays that an act may be passed by Congress granting to her the sum of \$300,000 as compensation for the Arlington property, at present used as a national cemetery. Heretofore most persons—myself among the number—believed that this estate was owned and exclusively controlled by the late Gen. R. E. Lee; and that it was consequently a legitimate prize for the Federal government. The impression, however, is now dispelled by the legal record, which shows that it was bequeathed to Mrs. Lee by her father in March, 1855, and that the will was admitted to probate in the County Court of Alexandria, Va., during the month of December, 1857. On the 11th of January 1864, the property was assessed by the United States government with a direct tax of \$92 07, and subsequently sold to the United States for a sum of \$26,800, but of this amount it appears that Mrs. Lee has not had a single penny. At the time of the sale the property was represented on the books of the country as being valued for \$34,100. The sale was held in pursuance of an act of Congress, which all good lawyers hold to be unconstitutional. The act referred to was passed in 1862, and provided that lands in the insurrectionary States should be charged with taxes, and sold for nonpayment. At all such sales the government was to have the privilege of buying in any portion of the lands that might be required for military or other purposes. Section 8 of the first article of the Constitution delegates to Congress the power of exercising exclusive jurisdiction over all places purchased by consent of the Legislature of the State in which the same shall be. In the Arlington case, it is needless to say that there was no consent either asked or given. Since then many cases of a similar nature have been tried in the United States Courts and the judges have invariably decided that even in the law of 1862, there is nothing whatever to compel the sale of 1,100 acres for the payment of a sum not equal to the purchase money of one acre. Of course, nothing can be done for the settlement of Mrs. Lee's claim without the passage of a law by Congress, and I am quite ready to admit that Republican legislators have a colorable pretext for not showing much enthusiasm about it. But, apart from all party considerations, there is really no good reason why adequate compensation should be longer withheld. The original owner of Arlington, the late Mr. George Washington Parke Custis, never anticipated such a result when he bequeathed it to his daughter and his grandson, George Washington Custis Lee, and his heirs forever. It is true that we have a heavy national debt, and many tombstones in nearly every churchyard throughout the country to bear evidence of the loss in blood and treasure that we have sustained by the rebellion; but, notwithstanding this, I doubt very much the propriety of revenging ourselves upon a woman, who, after all, may not even have been in sympathy with the cause which was only taken up by her husband while under the erroneous impression that his native State had the first claim upon his services. In the present condition of the property, I am free to confess that it would be very inconvenient for the government to restore it to Mrs. Lee, but this she does not ask. Her petition is written in a temperate and respectful spirit, and, if not granted unconditionally, should at least meet with a response becoming the dignity of a great nation.

AN ADVOCATE OF JUSTICE.

New York, February, 1872.

## THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE REGATTA.

LONDON, MARCH 23, 1872.

The annual race between the eight-oared boats' crews of the Oxford and Cambridge Universities came off to-day over the usual course of four miles two furlongs, from Putney to Mortlake, on the River Thames, and resulted in favor of the Cambridge men.

The morning opened with cold and stormy weather. Snow commenced to fall soon after daybreak, and was drifting with blinding severity before a gale of wind by the hour of eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

The prevailing opinion then was that the race would be postponed.

The weather remained exceedingly unfavorable at noon, and continued so at the hour of one o'clock in the afternoon. It was announced pretty generally, however, at the later moment that the race would not be postponed, and that the crews would be in position for the start without reference to the discouraging aspect caused by the wintry surroundings.

The betting was in favor of the Cambridge crew, ranging at about 7 to 4 during the past two days.

The Oxford crew was made up on the 17th of February with Ormsby (bow), Armistead, Giles, Nicholson, Malan, Black, Mitcheson and Lesly (stroke); but was subsequently reorganized and formed according to the list which I forward to-day.

The weights and collegiate class halls of the men were recorded as follows:—

## OXFORD.

The crew went to scale previous to their long row March 5, when their average weight was 11 st. 13½ lbs., the correct weight of each man being as under, according to the list furnished by the President:—

|  | Lbs. |
|--|------|
| Row, J. A. Ormsby, Lincoln College.....        | 153  |
| No. 2, F. E. Armistead, Exeter College.....    | 158½ |
| No. 3, F. E. H. Payne, St. John's College..... | 180  |
| No. 4, A. W. Nicholson, Magdalen College.....  | 183½ |
| No. 5, E. C. Maian, Worcester College.....     | 184½ |
| No. 6, C. Black, New College.....              | 165½ |
| No. 7, R. S. Mitcheson, Pembroke College.....  | 175  |
| Stroke, T. H. A. Houston, Christ Church.....   | 143  |
| Coxswain, A. H. Hall, Corpus College.....      | 112  |

Total weight of "the eight," 95 st. 10 lbs.

Average per man, 11 st. 13½ lbs.

## CAMBRIDGE.

|  | <i>Lbs</i> |
|--|------------|
| Row. J. B. Close, Jr., First Trinity.....    | 157        |
| No. 2. C. W. Benson, Third Trinity.....      | 158        |
| No. 3. E. M. Robinson, Christ's.....         | 167        |
| No. 4. E. A. A. Spencer, Second Trinity..... | 174        |
| No. 5. J. S. R. ad, First Trinity.....       | 175        |
| No. 6. J. P. Close, Sr., First Trinity.....  | 185        |
| No. 7. E. S. L. Randolph, Third Trinity..... | 185        |
| Stroke, J. H. D. Goldie, St. John's.....     | 74         |
| Coxswain, C. H. Roberts, Je us.....          | 91         |

The Oxford men were fourteen pounds lighter, at an average, than the Cambridge crew of last year.

The aggregate weight of the two crews was:—Oxford, 1,452½ lbs.; Cambridge, 1,425 lbs.

Messrs. Salter, boat builders, were entrusted with the building of a new craft for the "dark blue" oarsmen, while Cambridge, the victors of last year and the year before, again patronized Clasper.

At one of the latest training efforts of the Cambridge men they had comparatively smooth weather during a run to Ditton, and there was a large number of spectators to witness the practice. The only change in the constitution of the crew at that time was that Close, Sr., took the stroke oar instead of Baggallay, of Caius. The President, Mr. Goldie, steered down to the railway bridge, whence, in company with Mr. Lowe, of Christ's, he coached down to Baitsbite. In returning Mr. Goldie took the fourth oar, deputed Spencer to coach up to the railway bridge.

The Oxfords kept in training on the Isis. The river continued very much swollen of late days, an immense body of water having come down during a portion of the time. The President had his crew out for practice notwithstanding. Mr. Awdry at one time occupying Mr. Armistead's place, that gentleman suffering from a very severe cold, and Mr. Giles being returned temporarily to No. 3 oar. The crew rowed over the short course to Ilfey and back, being coached from horseback by the treasurer, Mr. Banks. A very decided improvement was evident both in their time and swing at the very latest days of their practice.

The crowd of spectators of the race to-day was small, compared to those of other seasons, though the river bank was well lined with people along the whole course, and considerable enthusiasm was manifested by the respective admirers of the two crews.

The day continued unfavorable, both to spectators and contestants. To the circulation of the report of a postponement, perhaps, as much as to the inclemency of the weather, was due the fact that the number of the spectators was very meagre, in comparison with the crowds which the rowing match usually attracts to the shore of the Thames. Nevertheless there were many thousands of people assembled along the land line of the course, who maintained their enthusiasm despite the unfavorable surroundings, and cheered lustily as the varying events of the race seemed to change the probabilities of its issue.

The Oxford and Cambridge men started for the race despite the continued prevalence of the storm, and the contest, which resulted in a victory for the Cambridge crew, was terminated by two o'clock in the afternoon.

At the hour of starting the snow was still falling heavily and the water of the Thames rough and lumpy, but the boats drew into the stream promptly and were greeted with rounds of cheers from either bank.

The Oxford boat had the lead at the start, but kept it for less than half a mile, the light blues coming up and going ahead at Bishop's Creek.

The next mile was a steady pull by both crews, Cambridge keeping a slight advantage.

Opposite the Soap Works the Oxford spurred and reached the side of Cambridge. For a short distance the boats were head and head, but Cambridge soon slightly in-

creased its stroke and passed Hammer-smith Bridge a length in advance.

This advantage was kept until the boats came to what is known as Corney Reach, where the water was found to be very lumpy, and the Oxfords' superb rowing and fine steersmanship gained splendidly upon their rivals. Cambridge was badly steered through the Reach past Chiswick Eyot, but directly afterwards answered well to the call of Goldie with a spurt of their thirty-seven strokes per minute.

Thence to the Barnes Railway Bridge the struggle between the contending crews was a series of severe and continuous spurtings, during which Oxford reached as high as forty-two strokes per minute. Cambridge, however, continued to lead, and finished in good style, passing the ship at Mortlake one length and a half ahead.

The time of the race is in dispute. One report gives it at 21m. 14s., and another at 21m. 53s.

The storm continued from the start to the close of the race, snow coming down heavily during the rowing time.

| Year.         | Winner.                 | Course. | Time. | M. S. | W n by   |
|---------------|-------------------------|---------|-------|-------|----------|
| 1860—Cam..... | Putney to Mortlake..... | 26 —    | —     | —     | A 1'gth. |
| 1861—Ox.....  | Putney to Mortlake..... | 23 27   | —     | —     | 48s.     |
| 1862—Ox.....  | Putney to Mortlake..... | 24 40   | —     | —     | 30s.     |
| 1863—Ox.....  | Mortlake to Putney..... | 24 5    | —     | —     | 42s.     |
| 1864—Ox.....  | Putney to Mortlake..... | 21 48   | —     | —     | 23s.     |
| 1865—Ox.....  | Putney to Mortlake..... | 21 23   | —     | —     | 13s.     |
| 1866—Ox.....  | Putney to Mortlake..... | 25 48   | —     | —     | 15s.     |
| 1867—Ox.....  | Putney to Mortlake..... | 22 39   | —     | —     | 1'gth.   |
| 1868—Ox.....  | Putney to Mortlake..... | 20 —    | —     | —     | 31'gths. |
| 1869—Ox.....  | Putney to Mortlake..... | 20 20   | —     | —     | 51'gths. |
| 1870—am.....  | Putney to Mortlake..... | 20 30   | —     | —     | —        |
| 1871—C m..... | Putney to Mortlake..... | 23 9½   | —     | —     | 31'gths. |
| 1872—Cam..... | Putney to Mortlake..... | 21 14*  | —     | —     | 1½ "     |

\*Disputed.

A University race in the year 1846, of four and a half miles, was rowed in twenty-one minutes and five seconds.—*New York Herald.*

## National Debt of Great Britain.

For the first time in the history of the world, England takes her place second in the list of indebted nations. Recent European events have placed France at the head of the list, with an indebtedness so great that only an approximate amount is at the present given with the other statistics for that country. After France comes England, and a return issued last year states that the total capital of the funded and unfunded debt of the United Kingdom amounts to \$6,678,001,185.

The origin of the British national debt is traced as follows: Some two centuries ago the necessities of the nation required advances to cover incidental expenses, that the annual revenue was inadequate to meet and the "Goldsmiths" of those days, either of their own will or of compulsion, met the demands thus created. It was in the year 1664 that national securities bearing interest were first negotiated; and eight years later, the second Charles of England broke the national faith, by declaring that a sum of \$6,640,000 principal and its interest could not be paid. Twenty years later, however, the interest of this debt was paid, and in 1699 an act of the English Parliament was passed allowing a permanent interest on it, at the rate of three per cent per annum. The principal above alluded to now forms a portion of the British funded debt, and in point of fact was its origin. The temptation thus suggested of using national savings for defraying pressing public expenses was not avoided and consequently in succeeding reigns—reaching down to this present time—the Chancellors of the British Exchequer did not hesitate to issue loans required to cover the cost of wars and other causes of expenditure that the annual revenue failed to provide for. In George the Third's reign, the greater portion of the national debt of Great Britain was incurred, and it is only within a comparatively recent period that any really efficacious method has been devised to decrease it.

## Served Her Right.

The following incident in the life of Mlle. Aimee, the opera bouffe prima donna, is related by a United States officer, who vouches for its truth:

In 1869 Mlle. Aimee was playing a successful engagement at Rio Jeniero, South America. Among her many admirers was a wealthy planter, who resided some distance from the city, who had bestowed many costly presents upon his charmer, and received many a shower of Aimee's smiles in return. One day, while out shopping, her eyes encountered a magnificent diamond necklace. This she bantered her adorer to present her with, which he promised her to do, but on inquiring the price and finding it to be 7,000 milreas—nearly \$3,000—he concluded it too costly, and so informed the Mlle., at the same time telling her that he had offered the jeweler 5,000 milreas, which he was willing to pay, but the jeweler refused to sell at that price. Aimee being determined to have the jewel, visited the owner and explained the situation, at the same time paying him 2,000 milreas (\$2,240), with instructions to the merchant to let the planter have it on paying the other \$5,000. On his next visit, Aimee coaxed him to make one more trial to obtain for her the much coveted necklace. He did so, and secured it, but just as he was leaving the store, a confidential friend entered, to whom he showed the costly present, at the same time telling him

who it was for. His friend persuaded him to take the necklace home to his wife, who loved and cared for him, instead of bestowing it on one who cared nothing for him. He did so, and Mlle. Aimee lost her \$2,240. —*Church's Musical Visitor.*

## CUMULATIVE VOTING.

NEW YORK, March, 1872.

To the Editor of the Daily Witness:

What is minority or cumulative suffrage? I have asked at least a dozen intelligent persons without getting any clue. Will you please give a short, clear statement, and oblige (perhaps) MANY.

This device to secure representation for minorities was first suggested, if we mistake not, by Mr. Disraeli, some years ago, when in opposition; and first embodied in the Education Act of the Gladstone Administration. It is now attempted to be introduced into the city of New York, and its merits are warmly canvassed on both sides of the Atlantic.

The theory of all representative institutions is, that the majority should rule, and cumulative voting does not directly contravene that theory; it only asks that minorities should have their fair share of representatives, who, though they cannot carry measures, should have an opportunity of being heard upon them. Practically this has been the case under the present system, inasmuch as constituencies have been found to return representatives of almost every shade of political opinion; but in any given electoral district, even though it should return several members, the minority has no chance of sending even one of them on the present plan; and it is for such districts the cumulative plan is devised. Suppose, for instance, that a country containing twelve hundred votes returns three members, and has a majority of two-thirds, or 800, on one side of politics. These, casting each three votes, would make 2,400 votes, or 1,200 for each of two members, whilst the minority of 400, by giving all their three (1,200) votes to one man, could make sure of returning him. If the majority attempted to elect all three, the minority could place their candidate at the head of the poll. Where there are only two parties, this plan might work well enough; but where, as in the case of the School Act in England, there are several parties in each constituency, the minorities, when combined, may become a majority, as has occurred in Birmingham.

Where a constituency is divided into a variety of parties, as is the case in that city with regard to the Education question, it is difficult to calculate beforehand the number of representatives that each party or combination of parties can elect; and if the majority divide their votes among too many, they allow the various minorities each to elect their man or men, and so find themselves in a minority upon the whole.

There is one advantage in party government, as compared with all kinds of coalitions or mixed governments; namely, that the party in power must bear the responsibility of its measures and appointments. There can, in that case, be no such shirking of responsibility as occurred in the recent vast robberies in this city, when each party blamed the other, on account of the raised character of the Board appointed to prevent robbery.

Cumulative voting would also greatly complicate the calculations of politicians, so that the most astute would get the advantage; and it would increase the difficulty of counting votes or detecting frauds. It is impossible, indeed, to tell beforehand precisely what its good or evil effects might turn out to be, as compared with the present system; but it is, to say the least, doubtful if it would be an improvement.—*New York Witness.*

THE FEELING IN FRENCH SOCIETY.—A Paris letter says: It must be said, to the credit of French society, that it has never been so sad as it is now. Among my own acquaintances, which is very large, I have not heard of a single ball given this winter. Here and there some few young girls have a sauterie; there are a few balls given in the American colony, which has become as brilliant as it ever was; but in French society dinners are the only entertainment permitted in the present mood of Paris. I hear that even in colleges and schools the tone of the boys has become more serious. We have been spared this year the usual promenade of the *bœuf gras* on the boulevards, with his ridiculous cortege of druids, of knights, of gods and goddesses; very few masks were seen on the *mardi gras*, and the masked balls of the Opera have been entirely given up to the lowest rabble. With all their elasticity, the Frenchmen feel their defeat much more keenly than the Austrians did theirs after Sadowa. It must be said, also, that the uncertainty of the future is added to the sufferings of the past; all minds are preoccupied with the dangers of our so called republic without republicans, with the Internationale, which is still groping in the dark, with the Bonapartist conspiracies, with the financial difficulties of the situation.

An iron will, a silvery voice, plenty of brass and a little tin are sure to meet with golden opinions.—*Judy.*