

ALL THE QUEEN'S FAULT.

It is all Queen Victoria's fault. Up out 20 years ago, although members of the peerage frequently patronsed men of letters, they mostly made o attempt to shine in the literary ament themselves. Women itle, especially, let the business of authorship severely alone. Count D'Ormy's fair friend, the Countess of Blesngton, was an exception. It is true, but she was always more or less of an outsider." In fact, so far as can be remembered, up to the time mentioned the one and only work of any importpublished by an Englishwoman of high rank was that rather gruesome novel, "Ellen Middleton," written by lady Georgiana Fullerton, sister of the famous Lord Granville-and it appeared anonymously.

Almost immediately after the ap-pearance of Queen Victoria's book, however, quite a lot of women belong-ing to the court world "went and did likewise," by giving to the world por-tions of their distinguished diaries and amiably written accounts of their trav-els, and after a while two or three members of the peerage, both men and omen, came out boldly with novels. Others tried their hands at poetry, and still others had a go at writing for the Mage, and of late years the thing has ecome so much the fashion that the list of titled scribblers includes one duke, three duchesses four countesses, five earls, and plain lords and ladies till you simply can't rest.

MEDIOCRE EFFORTS.

Frankly the Thames has yet to be set on fire as the result of a work by any member of this illustrious aggre-ration. But if the literary, poetic, and dramatic work produced thus far by British titled folk isn't on the whole so very good, it isn't so very bad either, and there are perhaps half a dozen men and women of title among the number who have no small share of the real stuff of which successful writers are made

First and foremost among these comes the youngest of the three duchesses mentioned-her grace of Sutherland. he was the eldest daughter of fourth earl of Rosslyn, and is a sister of the present eratic bearer of that fithe who also has had a shy at literature



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know best. I understand that really the Duchess of Leeds has another novel under way at present. She invariably spends the winter on the Riviera and she left, the other day, for her villa at Bordighera, after sending me the acmpanying photograph which is the latest and best that has been taken. The other literary duchess-her grace of Devonshire--is only so to a limited exany other profession. tent, for her work with the pen has This little country-so wide-awake been confined to the editing of certain that she surely might adopt the weasel letters written by the loveliest of her as her emblematic animal in the mepredocessors which were published in Lady Randolph Churchill's "Anglonagerie of European national lions.

Saxon Review." England's literary duke is one of the most exalted personages in the kingdom. For his grace of Argyll, besides being the author of quite a lot of serious works, many tales and poems, an opera libretto, is closely related to the royal family by virtue of having married Princess Louise, "own sister of King Edward VII. Besides his dukedom he has 12 other titles, is keeper o the great seal of Scotland, constable of Windsor castle, and has been governor-

general of Canada. But the duke is happiest when he is writing, and one of his favorite themes is the United States and American matters generally. His most successful work was "The United States of America After the War." ants, because the home catch was un-

needs of her Roman Catholic inhabit-

A LONG-HEADED ABBE.

heir own against their rivals.

fishing."

to the matter.

with much interest.

LADY JERSEY IS BUSY. Perhaps the most prolific of the four

fancied that the Belgian fishers were English countesses who write is Lady Jersey. Most of her literary work has been in the way of juvenile literature, Her "Hymns for Very Little Children" --two series of them--were published not as expert as their rivals, and it good living in the old way by "going down to the sea in ships," the young before her marriage, since when she men of the coast were deserting the has written "Sleeping Beauty, A Play for Children:" "Maurice, or the Red Jar," and quite a lot of other works for little folk, most of which have been quite successful. The beautiful Coun-tess of Warwick has really an uncom-mon gift for writing, but her many other activities—of which readers have springing up like mushrooms all over this busy litle country. heard so much-have prevented her from writing books to any extent and her only published works, exclusive of numberless magazine articles are her

"History of Warwick Castle and fis Earls" and "Reminiscences of Joseph Arch." The other literary countesses

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connected with the business of fishing. hours being from fishing boats), the Fishing-the deep sea kind-is one of 8:30 to 1:30 a. m. and from 1.30 to 4.30 the most important industries of the p. m. The elder students take much country. At the Fishery school at of their instruction in the long winter evenings, but the youngsters who Ostend, which, oddly enough, is con- either have not started on their career ducted by a Catholic priest, boys, are or whose sea trips are shorter are abla trained to be expert fishermen, just as to attend the classes during the day they might be trained to be experts in and more frequently.

TEACHING SEAMANSHIP ON LAND

The abbe believes greatly in practical instruction, and with this idea has had built in his garden the model, actual size, of a fishing boat. True, everything that is below decks seems to have bears and eagles-came to the conclusunk in the garden, but the upper part sion some time ago that her fishing is all that is necessary for his purpose, industry was on the wane. Her forty and it is here that the boys learn to mount the rigging without fear, so that when they do go to sea they, shall not have that sickening terror which has miles of coast, with its sandy bottom that contains so many excellent shrimps, that shelters so many flat fish, been so often described in sea stories. Here, too, they learn signaling, to use their sextants, and, in fact, all those and which, moreover, is so good for trawling, was once the starting place things which surely will be done on the deck of a boat. It is not difficult to for much larger and more successful fishing fleets than those which put out realize that the youngsters who have not yet been to sea thoroughly enjoy this "make believe," fancying them-selves already full-blown sailors. All the pupils, whether they be curlytoday. These had diminished gradually, and it was discovered that Belgium was actually importing fish from

neighboring countries to satisfy the headed boys or grizzled, weather-beatin men, are devoted to the good abbe, The small boy has much to learn in this professional school of fishery, for equal to the demand., It began to be there are, to begin with, no less than 00 nautical knots to master, all more or less intricate and puzzling to small fingers; there are blocks to be rigged was proved also that unable to make a and ropes to be spliced; there are sails to be mended and nets to be made and repaired. Nothing is more amusing than the sewing class, where rows of little men of the coast were deserting the calling of their fathers and being drawn away to the factories which are nished with a flat piece of leather for the palm of his hand and known as the sailor's thimble. They must learn to heave the log, too, and reckon the number of miles run after that fashion

which is so puzzling to a landsman. The professional School of Fishery, This state of things was especially however, does not stop here. Class s are held for astronomy, for the compunoticed and mourned over in Ostend, and one day the Abbe Pype-who has tation of latitude and longitude, and an immense raised map of the North sea lived long in the seaport, and been going to sea with the fishing fleets for bed (this region being that most particfifteen years or more--noticing the in-creasing misery of his poor fisher folk. (ularly studied, since few Belgian fish-ers go further afield) shows the boys reasing misery of his poor fisher folk, where a rocky bed is to be found, where the bottom is of seaweed, where was struck with the idea that perhaps better knowledge of their business of shell, where of sand, with the run of might help the Belgian fishers to hold the different tides and corrents.

ou cannot catch soles round rocks nor With this end in view he started in 1889 a small school for the express purcod in very shallow water, any more than you can gather figs from thiatles. pose of teaching "the gentle art of fishing," Little by little his untiring it is evident that the fisherman who has an intimate knowledge of the best places to look for his prey is on the efforts were crowned with success, and now he has his regularly established School of Fishery, recognized and enright road to success. In this the Fish. ing museum greatly aids, for everycouraged by the government, which thing brought up by the nets, down to grants it a small subsidy, and whose the very smallest atom, is carefully (a)-lected and classified, so that the younggood work is so widely recognized that ther countries are, starting similar inster learns all about the different life of stitutions. Nieuport and Blanker berghe, the two Dutch ports near Ost the animalculae in the sea water over which he floats, the food various fish end, are imitating Ostend's example with equally good effect, while France take, their parasites and all about their eggs. and Germany are seriously inquiring in-

GETTING IT DOWN FINE.

The improvement in the fishing in dustry as the result of beiter education has thus been officially recognized, while the change in the men them-selves is most marked. Many of those Moreover, the school contains most interesting diagrams respecting the fishing industry in all the north European ports, with the quantities taken each month. The pupils are thus able who had given up the sea as their calling are coming back to it now that to follow the pergrinations of the dif-comparative prosperity smiles, for it is forent fish, which are aften, to the comparative prosperity smiles, for hock great despair of those who live by them, a good preverb that says, "The hock great despair of those who live by them, of the true fisherman is firmest in his extremely fickle in their abiding places, of the true fisherman is firmest in his extremely fickle in their abiding places. birds of the North sea, the polyps, the sea plants, the zoophytes, etc., so that their chief ambitions to create a seafaring folk for the marine which it is every prize pupil who quits the prohoped will some day sall under the feesional school is burgeting with infor-mation about sea life in all its particu-lars and knows certainly far more about the ways and habits of his finny. black, yellow and red flag of Beiglum, the experiment is fostered and watched To begin with, before any small boy can attend the abbe's classes-his triends than he does about mere human beings.

school, in fact, being the fishers' finish-ing school-he must have gone to the Practical navigation is taught, as well as winds and tides and the use of the donkey engines. A very ingenious methy common schools and have mastered the of of teaching how to steer has been thought out by the abbe, who has de-vised a number of large, square cards, three R's or their equivalent in Flem-ish, besides knowing a little of mathematics. The pupil's ages average from 13 to 19, but there is nothing to premarked with the points of the compass, vent any fisherman with a thirst on which small models may be man-euvered. In this way the "hules of the knowledge from attending the school as long as he likes, the course of road" are learned, too, so that collisons

The various lightships placed at different dangerous points must be thoroughly well studied, too, these be ing distinguished by certain signs dur-ing the day and by various lights and flashes at night. One of the accom-panying illustrations shows a group of boys bending over these model light ships. While the boys are pursuing their theoretical studies at the schoo they are also going short fishing trips in smacks which serve as training boats, and of these the abbe himself owns a great number. Four boys only are allowed on each of these boats, and

PRIZES FOR SMART BOYS.

captain to be taught the practical side

they are placed in the hands of

of a fisherman's life.

The abbe, who makes frequent trips to the various fishing fleets, constantly visits these training boats to keep an cyc on the bodily and moral welfare of the pupils. At the end of a year each youngster goes up for a regular government examination, and if the re-sult be good and the examiners think the master of the boat has done well by the boy, he receives \$10 in addition to the \$15 paid for his year's care o the youth. The good scholar is award ed a savings bank book in which \$19 stands to his credit as a prize, which lerdly sum he cannot touch, however until he is 21. The profits of a fishing boat are divided into two-thirds to the crew and one-third for the owne of the ship, while the boys who have attained the proud position of being paid get one-fourth, one-third or one-

half of a man's share. The youngsters who show exceptiona intelligence are drafted into a special group that goes to serve the Belgian ship doing its share of the hydrographical study of the North sea. This work is carried on in connection with other north European nations four times a year, each country being engaged in surveying her own particular portion at the same time. That of Belgium extends from Cape Gris Nez on the French coast to Dover, and from Old urness to Blankenberghe.

The abbe is aided in the instruction given the boys by other clericals and professors, who try to turn out good men as well as good fishers, and by devoted staff to whom the laboratory is intrusted. Here all kinds of experi-ments in clarifying fish oil for commercial purposes, are carefully studied, the knowledge gained being accessible to any Belgian.

NO DETAIL OVERLOOKED.

Here, too, the best method of tanning sails so that they shall be strong and seaworthy, as well as a key to the artist eye, is practised, and is taught freely to any fisherman who applies; and here, too, is a dynamo-moter for test ing the strength of news, so that any boat owner who has his doubts as to the good condition of his nets and dreads to lose a good haul can send them here and have them tested.

Instruction is given, too, in making tins for counting, and for counting itself. while any manufacturer or private per-son who has do bis as to the good condition of the contents of a tin can sem to the laboratory for testing in the

of oven. The training hoars usually arrive in port on Saturday so that the boys may have the Sunday ashero, and one of the Illustrations shows such a school arriving in Ostend harbor for that day.

It will be seen from this account of the Professional School of Fishery that really good work is "oing on among Belgian nshers, to whom a downright searcheal education is given which cautrade. They learn, too, a little first aid to the wounded, and how to revive the

Abbe Pype recognizes that "all work and no play makes Jack Fisherman a dull boy," and also that "a good wife is God's best gift." So, in order that his scholars may sometimes unbend their minds from the stern study of the sea he has provided them in his garden with a merry-go-round, and here, on horses, whose make and shape have been almost destroyed from overwork, study being absolutely free, the abbe may be avoided. And small boys who the embryo salts career round and

John E. Redmond, at a reception in his honor, was asked for his opinion of a political prophecy that had been printed in a London newspaper.

Mr. Redmond read the prophecy, Then he smilled.

"This," he said, "is hyperbolical. It is as hyperbolical as the mosquito story that a resident of New Jersey told me the other day.

"This gentleman desired to impress upon me the great size and ferocity of the New Jersey mosquitoes. He said: "'I had a valuable cow in the spring, and usually I kept her in the stable, for the mosquitoes were growing in size and in numbers, and I feared that they might do her harm.

"'One hot, cloudy, humid day, though, permitted the cow to pasture in a marshy field. She spent the day in the field. And toward evening I went with one of the farm hoys to bring her home to the milking.

'Alas! her skeleton lay beneath a tree, and on an adjacent fence sat a mosquito, picking his teeth with one of her horns."

HE'D HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY.

Sir Lauder Brunton, the noted English physician, was talking about nervous ill temper at a reception that was given in his honor by the Medical club of Philadelphia.

After he had described the beneficent effect of certain drugs upon nervous ilt temper, Dr. Brunton said:

"Ill temper of the nervous sort is worthy of serious attention. It makes many lives unhappy. I remember a middle aged woman of most nervous disposition, who told me with tears in her eyes how she had once said to r husband:

'John, I know I'm cross at times. know you find me unkind often. Sometimes, perhaps, you think I do not love But, John, remember, when such ou. happy thoughts assail you, that, had my life to live over again, I'd mar. ry you just the same.' 'I'm not so sure of that,' John an. swered shortly."

to those used with horses, but the bit is exceptionally powerful. For obvious reasons it has been found desirable to affix rubber rads to the ends of their long horns. In one respect the steer is possessed of agility superior to that the horse. He can turn sharp at right angles when going at full speed. TO BREED SPEEDY OXEN.

In a semi-wild state on the western plains the steer is capable of a good turn of speed and at round-ups often leads cowboys mounted on fleet ponies a long chase. How far this may be improved by judicious breeding remains to be seen. Heretofore the only object aimed at by that means has been to develop their beaf qualities. The horse in its present state is the result of cen-turies of evolution directed by human agencies. It is quite possible, French scientists declare, that the ox is capable of similar development and improvenent, and that the result would be something vastly different from the present breed.

It is well known that in certain parts of America horses succumb so rapidly to poisonous files and other pests that exen only can be employed as beasts of burden. In such regions it is evident that there would be a demand for one that could be riden to saddle. In future punitive expeditions in these portions of the dark continent "steer: corps" may be employed by the British army just as now camel corps are used in the Soudan. A charge of mounted steers, with the pads removed from their formidable horns, would suggest to the ordinary man the desirability of centing a hasty retreat even quicker than would a charge of ordinary cav-Whatever may be the outcome of it the French experiment is certainly a novel and interesting one.

COMMON SENSE.

"Stand up straight, don't look at the boys, and keep your shoes tied," is the advice given by a dean of a big college for girl students. Nothing about spirtual ideas or higher life in it,and sounds almost too sensible to be true .- Mount Morris Index.





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