

AFTER THE BALLOTING.

When the polls were closed and it was certain that "Liberal" methods had been successful, the din began. At first there were crowds of boys who went through the streets shouting, yelling, blowing horns, and jostling people.

As dark came on, the crowds became larger, and the uproar increased. The business places and dwellings of "Liberals" were illuminated, fireworks were burned, bonfires lighted in the streets, bombs and rockets were fired, and the victorious party were wild.

The saloons were closed, and that had some tendency to check the disorder; but with the ringing of bells, blowing of horns, beating of drums and tin cans, hooting, yelling, swearing, cheering, there was never a scene which surpassed last night's proceedings. For five or six hours the principal streets were field for a tremendous tumult. There were several gangs of women whose appearance indicated that they were of unsavory reputation, who decorated themselves, and marched along the streets, shouting. At midnight saloons were opened, and many of the hoarse and thirsty crowd crowded in to regale themselves on intoxicants. It was early morning before the noise finally died away, and the participants in the disorderly demonstration all retired to shelter.

During the proceedings speeches were made at the Walker House by Judge Powers, E. B. Critchlow, Rev. T. C. Cliff, E. R. Clute and others. P. L. Williams was one of the number, and referring to a possibility of a contest by the People, he declared that if the other side refused to give up the seats, the "Liberals" would go there and take possession, even if they had to throw the others out of the window.

CURRENT TOPICS IN EUROPE.

Just now the news has arrived that the beautiful woods overlooking the Vale of Avoca are going to be cut down and made up into matches. People of a sentimental turn of mind declare it an outrage. If there is a spot in all the British Islands that deserves to be kept sacred from the desecrating hands of commerce and manufactures it is the "Sweet Vale of Avoca." It forms the inspiration of perhaps the best known poem of Ireland's greatest bard, Thomas Moore. Who does not remember those beautiful lines commencing,

"There is not in the wide world a valley so sweet
As that vale in whose valley the bright waters meet."

But even if this beautiful spot had not been immortalized in Moore's famous lyric it deserves to be spared for its own sake. It lies in one of the loveliest districts of Ireland. The whole route from Dublin to Wicklow runs through a transportingly beautiful country, and it would seem difficult to find anywhere a more exquisite combination of foliage, water, and distant views

of mountain scenery than in these smiling glens. But the Vale of Avoca has companions in misfortune. Perhaps the words of Scott are true. When the poet dies, mute nature mourns her worshiper. It may be so; for nature seems to have no power to protect her shrines from the invasion. Even the lands of Burns and Scott have fallen victims to the modern commercial spirit. It is true the Highlanders have succeeded in preserving the Frossachs and Benvenue, and Ellen's Isle, for the benefit of tourists; but he who visits Melrose Abbey will perceive with regret the huge brick chimneys belching their foul fumes into the air, and the dye products and chemical abominations that kill the turf and poison and pollute the river. The quiet shades of Stoke Pogis churchyard are still undisturbed except by an occasional locomotive whistle, and we may see the scene of the "Elegy" much as it was in the days of Thomas Gray. We may see Milton's home at Horton in much the same condition, probably, that it was three hundred years ago. Shakespeare's house and burial place at Stratford are seemingly well preserved, and almost unchanged is the little church at Brington in Northamptonshire, where lie the mortal remains of George Washington's ancestors. But we look and look in vain to find the Forest of Arden or the bosky depths that suggested the imagery of the "Midsummer Night's Dream" and "As You Like It." Windsor Forest as described by Pope is no longer a forest, and many another landmark of the past has been obliterated. Even at the present time Liverpool is turning one of the loveliest of Welsh valleys into an artificial water tank. The hand of change is inevitable, but many look with regret upon the destruction of those scenes so intimately connected with what King George II., in his broken English, used to call "boetry and bainting."

The jubilee of the Penny Post which took place in various parts of England on the 10th of January is in reality one of the most significant of the celebrations that have taken place recently. It was on January 10, 1840, that universal cheap postage was inaugurated in the United Kingdom. At this distance of time we can scarcely comprehend the great social change that was thus brought about. Previous to that time there had been a penny post in Edinburgh, and likewise an arrangement in London and suburbs for the carrying of parcels and letters. Sir Rowland Hill, however, was the originator of a universal and uniform rate of cheap postage, and the inventor of the adhesive postage stamp. We can now scarcely realize the amount of persecution that Sir Rowland Hill suffered during the two years that the now famous postal bill was pending before Parliament. As soon as it became law and went into operation its benefits were readily seen. An enormous increase of correspondence was the first result. Previously letters had been a luxury

beyond the reach of the very poor. A day's wages of a laboring man would scarcely pay the postage of a single letter. A parting of relatives and friends had something of the nature of a farewell. A mother's parting with her child was rendered more painful by the thought that it would be long before she would hear from him again.

It was not long before other nations adopted the postage system introduced by Sir Rowland Hill. Switzerland was the first among Continental nations, but before ten years had passed, the system had extended to the whole civilized world. The advent of cheap postage, connected as it is with rapid transit, has brought with it one of the greatest social revolutions in the history of the world. It is well that Sir Rowland Hill is to have a magnificent statue erected to his memory, as one of the great benefactors of his race.

Whether the Prince of Wales is following the example of his royal nephew, the Emperor of Germany, or the aforesaid royal nephew is following the example of his uncle, the Prince of Wales, may be a matter of dispute, but this much is evident, that both seem anxious to benefit their people. We can imagine no subject of deeper importance than that which alleviates or eradicates that greatest disease of mediæval times known to historians by the name of leprosy. It is certainly a mark of kindness of heart to see the Prince of Wales presiding, as he did on the 13th instant, over a meeting of philanthropists and scientists to consider and discuss leprosy in all its forms, methods of treatment, and possible extirpation. The meeting in itself partook of rather an international character, for besides those eminent in the medical profession and residing in Great Britain, such as Dr. McKenzie, Sir James Paget, Dr. Priestly and Dr. Russell Reynolds, there were others from the continent who take a deep interest in the subject. Among these may be mentioned Dr. Fayer and Father Pamphile de Veuster, the brother of Father Damien, that noble martyr to the cause of leprosy. Respecting the origin of leprosy but little is known with certainty. Lucretius regards Egypt as the land from whence it came. Be that as it may, the sacred books of the Jews are full of allusions to the dreaded malady; and he who reads the writings of Moses will perceive how minute directions he gave concerning it. Herodotus speaks of leprosy as existing in Babylon; and Pliny thought that the army of Pompey brought it to Italy, from Syria. It was, however, in the Middle Ages that the horrible malady spread with such irresistible power, and scattered abroad such widespread desolation and horror. Immediately after the crusades, leprosy became a common thing in Western Europe. It is a disputed question whether it was brought hither by the crusaders themselves, or whether it was caused by wholesale licentiousness of the priests during the absence of so many of the husbands during those fanatical wars—the absence of husbands who