

# The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.

## London is World's Wickedest City

### Says Well-Known Social Reformer.



Rev. W. Kingscote Greenland.

Far Worse Than Paris or Other European Capitals—American Cities Are Morally Superior—British Worst People For "Stolid Sensuality"—Even Churches Are Whited Sepulchres.

London is religious buildings. This story is true because the girl is my sister.

INHABITANTS IRRELIGIOUS.

"For its size and population, no city is more irreligious than London. Only one in seven of its population attend any place of worship. There are many parts of London where Sunday does not suggest to anybody anything of a religious character whatever. It is not that they break the Sabbath; they have no idea it is the Sabbath.

"We are a heathen city; the heathen city par excellence. From the religious papers you might gather that all the churches were bent on the social gospel, and are giving themselves to institutional work. Believe me, it is a fairy tale. In hundreds of our churches, congregational, Baptist and Methodist, any allusion to just wages, righteous holidays for employees, or decent housing accommodations is regarded as an intrusion of secularism into the atmosphere of the day of rest, and an introduction of politics into the pulpit. This must remain so as long as our churches are financed by social and economic law breakers."

"Do you consider things to be getting better, or worse?"

BATTLE TO THE STRONG.

"Of course we have made immense improvement," he replied, "and to the county council and to religious people as well as non-religious people of all sorts great credit and deep gratitude is due, but these do not alter one fact of my indictment in the faintest degree. I am talking of London as a whole and of people generally. Londoners are the best people I know to talk to; quick-witted, appreciative, kindly and individually sympathetic with the wrongs and sorrows of others, but the bloodhounds of sickness and the loss of a berth back at their heels from January to December, and they trample on another down because they are terrified of being trampled on themselves. The battle is to the strong, they know, and it is not one whit less to the strong because your employer is a Christian philanthropist."

"I naturally expect," he concluded, "to have all I have said, or most of it, savagely denied, because there is nothing in the world that citizens dislike so much as for the truth to be told about their city. It is a point of honor not to give your native shames away."

E. L. SCOTT.

"Do you maintain that London is worse than Paris?"

FOR THE ENGLISH.

"I suppose you know that the notorious slum houses of Paris that figure so luridly in the after experience of the Saturday to Monday English gentleman are kept by Americans and English, and the famous Moulin Rouge with its can-can dance is run by the brother of one of our greatest English comedians. All Parisians laugh at it and disown it, and say that it is kept entirely for the English."

"And the American cities?" I asked.

"Personally, I do not know the cities of America," said the reverend gentleman, "and though from information which pours into one's ears every day about them one feels sufficiently com-

petent, at least to institute comparisons. I will not do so because I have never trodden their streets actually. This I hope to correct next August, when I am trying to arrange to accept a few engagements at your great Chautauqua gatherings.

WILL VISIT CHICAGO.

"I may find Chicago and New York," he continued, "better or worse than Mr. H. G. Wells, Mr. Donald Frazer and scores of others have found them, and that is worse than London. If they are not absolutely better, bad though they are, then someone has been telling me fairy tales about the United States all my life."

"But the lives of the people themselves, as you say, are not so bad. I further questioned, 'Is there not more luxury and wealth-squandering in America and France than in England?'"

"As to London's pleasure," he answered, "look at her hotels which have multiplied so rapidly lately; her extravagance in flowers, wines, dress, is only rivalled by stories of the luxurious east in barbaric times, or the carnival in the sensuous revival of the Renaissance. Think of the amount

spent on pleasure in London on one night in which almost all classes participate. A lady confessed to my sister at dinner not long ago that she never wore a dress under any circumstances that cost less than \$300. It has recently been said that \$10,000 a year for an English society lady's dresses is a very moderate allowance."

450 AGAINST ABYSS.

"Then again," he continued, "take London's contempt for humanity. Where are men and women so cheap? If you ask for a rise in wages you are at once told that if an advertisement is put in the papers tomorrow morning, there will be 250 men at least, as well educated as you, not to say better, clamoring at the doors to take your job at considerably less money than you are now receiving. I have been living close to Walthamstow which is clerical, and a more tragic locality hardly exists in the world. It is the tragedy of silk-hatted, frock-coated, silk-bloused respectability supporting itself and its pitiful little villa on \$450 a year, haunted by the terror of sickness and the coming of the devastating years. They dare not protest lest they should lose the

fact that there is no physical compulsion to account for the tricks it can be found in the feet in which the flies have been taught to juggle with a dumbbell. A fly is seated in a chair and the dumbbell placed between its legs. If the fly had any desire to rid itself of the dumbbell it simply had to release its hold and the object immediately would fall to the ground. This, however, a well trained fly never does. When it is tired, it gently rests the dumbbell on the floor and when it is rested picks it up again and resumes the twirling.

Smith has an explanation of this new feat of the fly. "In all probability," he told me, "these insects are willing to perform these feats because exactly the same movements of the legs are necessary as in walking. It took me some little time to discover this, but I found, for instance, that a few short wasps, which I have hit upon the trick, are not so different."

ERNEST L. HETKAMP.

## Duchess of Marlborough Tackles the Salon Problem

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, Jan. 7.—At last we are to have a salon. The Duchess of Marlborough has said it. For years it has been the ambition of every great leader of society in London to found a salon. Attempts by the score have been made, but some one after another has failed. The lady who arrived nearest to the mark was Lady Jeanne, the wife of the famous divorcee court judge, Sir Francis Jeune, who received a peevish shortly before his death. "This lady, by the way, is a grand-aunt of Mrs. Winston Churchill."

All sorts of clever and eccentric people used to assemble at Lady Jeanne's well known house in Harley street. The possession of brains was the passport. Some of the men were so poor it used to be said that they got their dress suits out of pawn for the occasion. These men were to be found discussing some burning question of the day with Lady Warwick or the beautiful Duchess of Sutherland. Of one guest it was told that after having taken her Grace of Sutherland in to supper at one of these parties, he left the house and had to sleep on the Embankment, his landlady having locked the door upon him because he had not paid his rent. Today he is one of the foremost authors and gets four figures for his novels.

STORY TELLERS WANTED.

The Duchess of Marlborough is aware that the very first essential for a salon in London is intellectual, mingled with an element of amusement. Amusing guests who can tell good stories and witty women are as necessary as politicians and bishops. The primary idea of the duchess's salon is political. In politics her grace is a Tory of the first water like her husband, but nevertheless she is extremely catholic in her selection of friends. This means that there should be an exceedingly interesting crowd found within the walls of the duchess's salon. It is said here that as a rule politics do not interest the American woman. To the Duchess of Marlborough they are fascinating. For years she has been credited with this desire to found a salon. At the moment she is a pillar of philanthropy. Half the bishops of England look to her for funds for her charities. She responds most generously to appeals but were she to give to all she would exceed her total income.

Money is the first essential for success of any kind in London just now. A woman may be as beautiful as Marie Stuart or Marie Antoinette and have the bluest of blood in her veins, but if she has not money it profits her nothing. On the other hand anyone who possesses the slightest dollar, can, if she goes about it in the right way, enter the magic royal set. But it goes without saying she must be introduced by someone in the main. Otherwise she may remain for all time outside the fold.

SOCIAL SYNDICATE.

Five peeresses have recently formed

Special Correspondence.

themselves into a circle and have hired that any rich colonial, American or English may or may not desire to take up a definite position in London society may do so by putting down the useful in the shape of a check which will be divided among the five. One of the ladies is the first favorite of the king who is her godfather. Her husband used to be regarded as one of the wealthiest men in society, but in some mysterious way his money has disappeared and they have had to give up their town house and live in quite a small way. She is beautiful, ambitious, accomplished and has two budding daughters who ought to be put upon the matrimonial market in the proper way. Another of these ladies is the wife of an Irish peer, who, though very clever and "a coming man" has no money. His wife is a beauty, but he cannot allow her the money she ought to have to dress on. If she hopes to hold her place in society and attain for her lord the political position of which he is worthy she must be perfectly groomed and she must also entertain. A third member of the quintet is the wife of the Hampshire magnate newspaper proprietor for permission to allow a reporter to reside in his house during the visit of a renowned sovereign who must be nameless.

These who know these ladies are waiting with the greatest interest for the coming of the new millionaires, who, if they are bachelors, may expect the time of their lives. That the duchess's salon is a success is a foregone conclusion. Some of the price at \$5,000, others say it will more likely run to \$25,000.

QUEEN INTERESTED.

Her majesty, Queen Alexandra, has always been a great admirer of Mrs. John Jacob Astor. On the death of Mrs. Astor the queen sent an autograph letter of condolence to her. This was a special mark of favor, for it happens that owing to the custom which has for years existed between the Astors here and the first family Mrs. John Jacob is known but slightly to the royal family.

Her majesty, who is a great lover of historic jewels, has heard a great deal about the famous Louis XIV bow in diamonds and pearls which was part of the state jewels of that monarch, and which was purchased by a duke, later Mrs. Astor for a fabulous sum some years ago and will henceforth be worn by her daughter-in-law. I hear Mrs. John Jacob Astor has promised to bring this exquisite piece of jewelry to Europe with her the next time she crosses, for the inspection of the queen who, it is said, desires a replica of it. No doubt it will be a considerable time before Mrs. Astor wears it, but when she does she may expect to be mobbed, so great is the interest here in the acquisition.

COMING HOSTESSES.

Though owing to her mourning it will be some time before Mrs. Ogilvy hosts an entertainment, it is rumored that she proposes to take one of the great London palaces when she returns from the United States. Meanwhile her house in Brook street is being made ready for her. This is a very old, but pretentious house and though well situated is unworthy of the part owner of the fortune of her mother, the late Mrs. Astor. It is said that for a long time she has had her eye on a residence in Park lane which has been in

the market for a couple of years, it being too expensive for anyone except a millionaire. Mrs. Marshall Field, Jr., now Mrs. Drummond, inspected it, but eventually changed her mind. Society here looks to Mrs. Ogilvy Haig as one of the great hostesses of the future; but whether she will live up to these expectations remains to be seen.

LADY COOPER RECOVERING.

For a long time it seemed as though Lady Cooper would never again take up her position as a hostess so great was her grief at the death of her brother, "Silent" Smith, who died on his honeymoon tour. She used to say, "After such a blow there was nothing to live for," and added, "What was the good of wealth, position, money?" Now, however, she is recovering from the intense depression and since the shooting season commenced there has been a succession of house parties at Huxley, her beautiful country seat, which is one of the most luxurious and up-to-date houses in the kingdom. So far she is, she has no desire to re-open her mansion in Grosvenor square which is among the largest in that aristocratic neighborhood. Like one of two other well-known Americans, notably Lady Suffolk, she dislikes London, though she wishes to "feel she has a home to go to when she comes townwards."

HAS HE A PRESS AGENT.

Somebody in Washington ought to give a tip to the American ambassador here that the young gentlemen of his staff in Victoria street might properly make an hour's journey from London, or even a week-end trip to Paris, with out providing the society columns of the Times with an item to that effect. There has been scarcely a day for months that has not been graced with the appearance of some item of the sort, and as the other embassies do not avail themselves thus liberally of the courtesies of the society columns, the impression that will be created before long is that the American embassy employs a press agent. Incidentally there is no wild burst of enthusiasm here over the published report that Vice President Fairbanks may succeed Whitelaw Reid.

LADY MARY.

HIGHEST IN HONORS

BAKER'S COCOA

50 HIGHEST AWARDS IN EUROPE AND AMERICA

A perfect food, preserves health, prolongs life

WALTER BAKER & CO., Ltd.

Established 1780

DORCHESTER, MASS.

REGISTERED U.S. PAT. OFF.

THE LIFE STORY OF THE COMMON FLY.

The life story of the common fly, the most other intimate facts of its life, is amazingly interesting. It is a short one, measured in periods of time, but full of happenings. The fly is dependent on putrid meat and animal excrement. The grub, or maggot, as it is called, absorbs the nourishment from the putrid matter. When the grub has reached its full growth it is transformed by the stiffening of the outer skin. Then the insect, instead of developing, seems to take a backward step. It is a short one, measured in periods of time, but full of happenings. The fly is dependent on putrid meat and animal excrement. The grub, or maggot, as it is called, absorbs the nourishment from the putrid matter. When the grub has reached its full growth it is transformed by the stiffening of the outer skin. Then the insect, instead of developing, seems to take a backward step. It is a short one, measured in periods of time, but full of happenings. 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